MIDLANDER
Soaring in the SUN
MT
2001

Student Life

Academics

People

Organizations/
Student Affairs

Greeks

Athletics

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AUGUST 2000 - MAY 2001

Volume 76

MIDLANDER

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

ENROLLMENT: 19,000

Elisa Fisk

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Elisa Fisk

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Elisa Fisk

Matthew Starling

Matthew Starling

Elisa Fisk

Student Life

"Blue Raiders ride onto
victory.
Never failing in the fight.
Upholding honor and
tradition of the name
that's held most high,
MTSU marching onward
this will be our battle cry.
For the true pride of the
Blue MTSU Raiders ride."
MTSU fight song

Elisa Fisk

MTSU is soaring...from Welcome Week to Homecoming, Raider pride and school spirit have permeated the events that we remember as part of student life this year in the Sun.

Matthew Starling

2001

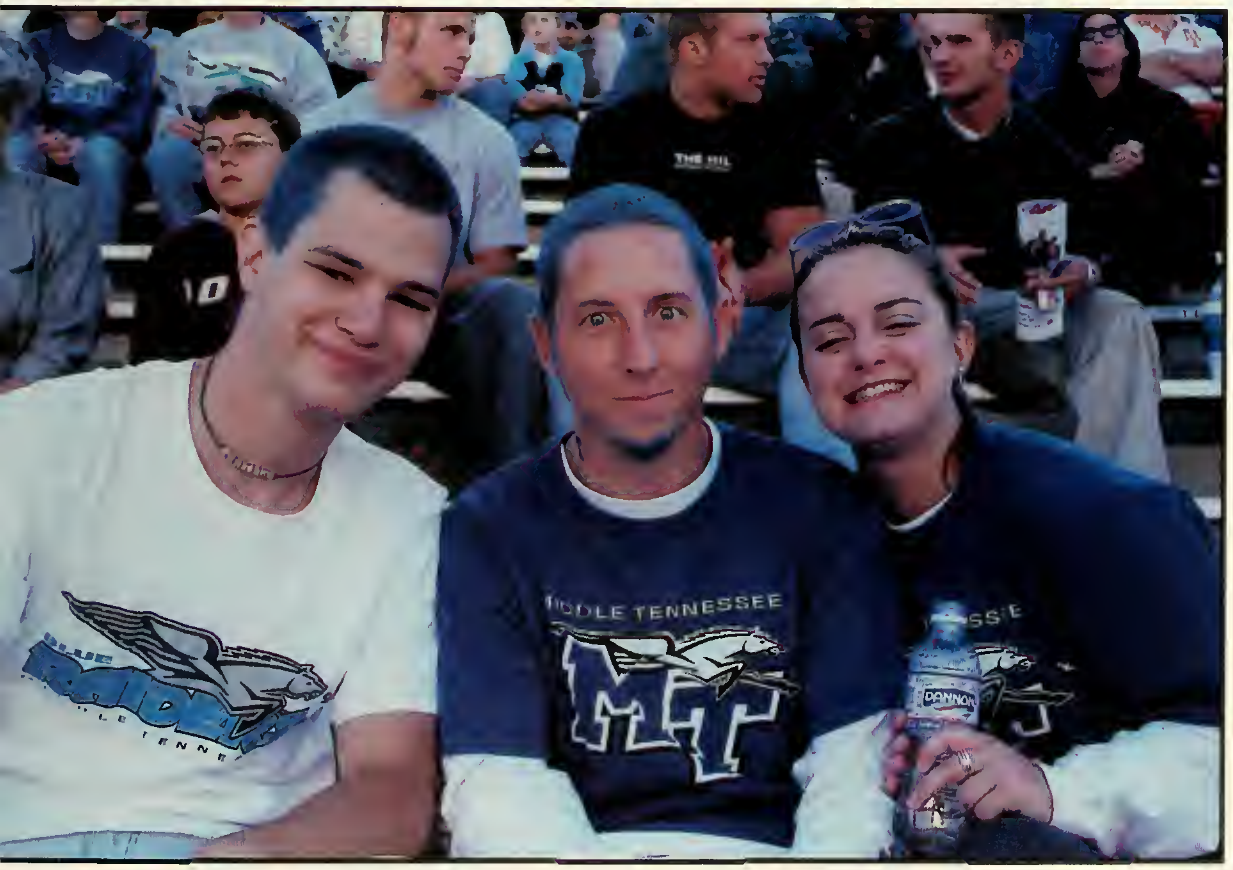
Blue Raider Spirit

This future Raider cheerleader shows her ability to get the crowd involved in the game. Photo by Elisa Fisk.

Justin spots the camera while Vicky and Del Lowe take in a big play. The Lowe's and the Madhatters are enthusiastic fans. Photo by Elisa Fisk.

Soars in the Sun

As they smile for the camera, students sport their painted faces and Raider T-shirts. Which were given to incoming students during CUSTOMS. Photo by Elisa Fisk.

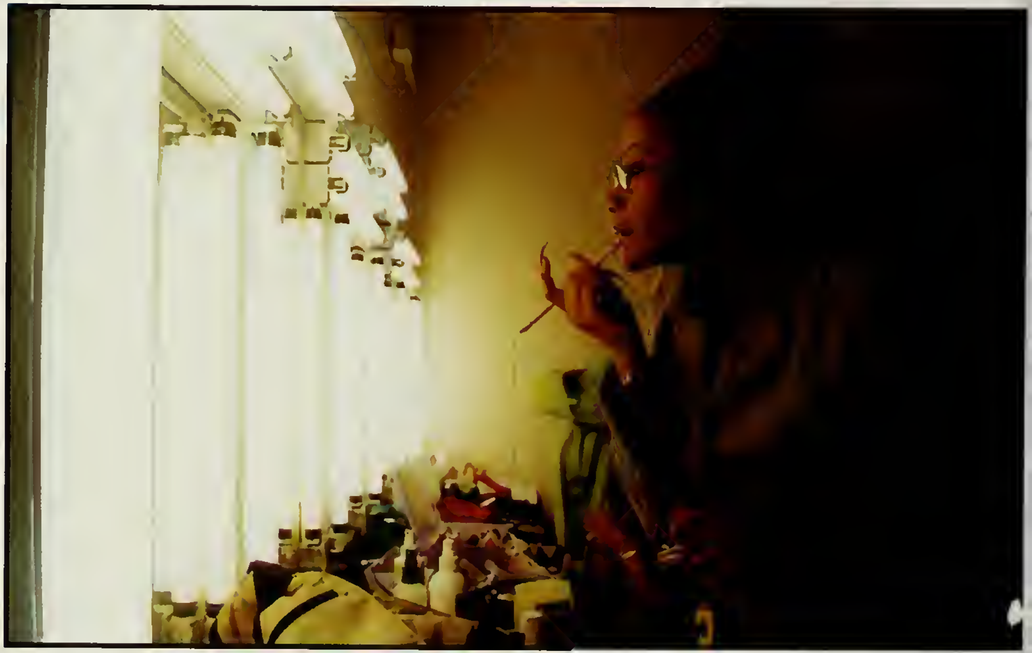


Seeing blue, these fans show off their blue do's. Blue Raiders shirts are on sale for $5 in the Phillips Bookstore for a limited time. Photo by Elisa Fisk.

A Golden Night

Reaching for the Stars

Contestants shined in the spotlight at the Miss Black and Gold pageant, an annual event sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. Preparations started hours before the evening event with contestants spending time to get ready for the show, which was held Oct. 17 at Tucker Theatre. This year's contest featured an evening gown competition and a talent contest. Talents featured at the event included a dramatic interpretation by contestant Brooklyn Smith and a vocal performance by contestant Maya Dickson. Ashley Brooks, pictured with members of Alpha Phi Alpha, was crowned as the winner of this year's event. Brooks later soared to win again in the next level of competition.



Elisa Fisk

Opposite page: Matthew Starling
Center: Elisa Fisk
Above: Matthew Starling

Elisa Fisk

Soaring to New Heights

James E. Walker

President James Walker enjoys the company of the dance team. Dr. Walker enjoyed mingling with students at MTSU.

Elisa Fisk

Dr. Walker escorts Carmen Jones as she is crowned 1998 Homecoming Queen. File photo.

Southern Illinois chooses Walker from among other national candidates

Dr. James E. Walker, who spent the last decade giving MTSU the wings with which to fly, was named the president of Southern Illinois University on July 26. He took the reins of the multi-campus system on Oct. 1.

"The 10 years I have served as president of this fine university have been some of the best years of my life," Walker said. "MTSU is a growing, prosperous university with a bright, promising future. I am honored to have been a part of this success phenomenon, and I am certain that MTSU will continue on its path toward success and greatness."

MTSU changed dramatically since Walker came here Feb. 1, 1991. During that time he has overseen a decade of growth. Enrollment increased almost 20 percent during his tenure, but college entrance scores for incoming freshman have ranked above the national average for six years. A building boom, highlighted by a state-of-the-art $34 million library, has been a hallmark of the Walker presidency.

Walker also spearheaded MTSU's move to Division 1 football, which became official in September 1999. He served on numerous committees and community boards and was selected by Black Issues in Higher Education as one of the top colleges presidents in higher education in the 20th century. Walker's appointment at SIU was the result of a vigorous national search. His presence at MTSU will be missed.

The Nellie Trible Nursing Scholarship Fund was established recently at MTSU with a gift for about $215,000 from the estate of Nellie Trible. Shown here, from left, are President James E. Walker; Larry Trail, attorney for the Trible estate; Dr. Pam Holder, director, School of Nursing; and Don Moser, president of the MTSU Foundation.

Photo by MTSU Photographic Services.

Senior Chaney Mosley is shown here receiving the James E. Walker President's Award from President Walker for "setting the standard for character, honor, and achievement to which other should strive." Photo by MTSU Photographic Services.

Welcome Week starts the fall off

Craig Domen works the sound system during a student Programming concert while students enjoy the show. Photo provided.

A student climbs a climbing wall which was inflated in the KUC courtyard. Photo by Elisa Fisk.

Toshi Reagon entertains with blues-injected rock and introspective folk ballads.Photo by Elisa Fisk.

with activities to make us soar ....

Toshi Reagon tells a down-home story in between funky jazz sets. Photo by Elisa Fisk.

Fun On the Knoll

Slipping and sliding students relive their childhood. The slip and slide was invented in 1983 but was part of this year's activities. Photo provided.

National lecture tour comes to campus

COLLEGES.COM PRESENTS
SPITFIRE
MUSICIANS, ACTORS & ACTIVISTS SPEAKING OUT

Michael Franti shares his wisdom with the audience during the Sept. 12 show. Photo by Elisa Fisk.

The Spitfire Tour travels to different college campuses across the country. The tour is known for its controversial, thought-provoking rhetoric. MTSU was the group's first stop this fall. Photo provided.

COLLEGES.C ESENTS
SPIT RE
MUSIC S, ACTORS & ACTIVIS GLOBAL AFFAIR

Angelo Moore talks with students following the show. Photos provided.

Jello Biafra hangs out with these students to share his thoughts. Photo provided.

New Raider Orientation

New students flock to campus during CUSTOMS in June and July to get a sample of what life at MTSU will be like. Ports of Call at Campus Recreation, which is a highlight of each two-day orientation. Students and parents enjoy a buffet dinner while visiting information booths provided by a variety of campus organizations. Freshmen have the opportunity to pre-register for classes they will take in the fall. Photos by Derrick Wilson.

SUN
ELT
FERENCE

Sorority recruitment soars to new levels

All photos on these pages by Elisa Fisk

Meeting new people, finding new friends who become your sisters. Sorority recruitment brings young women together who are interested in forming life-long bonds through common goals and interests. Sorority recruitment soared to new heights this year with numerous women pledging MTSU's Panhellenic sororities. Rho Chi, which coordinates rush and contains representatives from each sorority, get ready for Philanthropy Night at James Union Building After a week of recruitment activities, new pledges are welcomed in the sorority rooms with cheers, hugs and new commitments.

Fraternities rise to new heights during Rush

All photos on these pages by Elisa Fisk

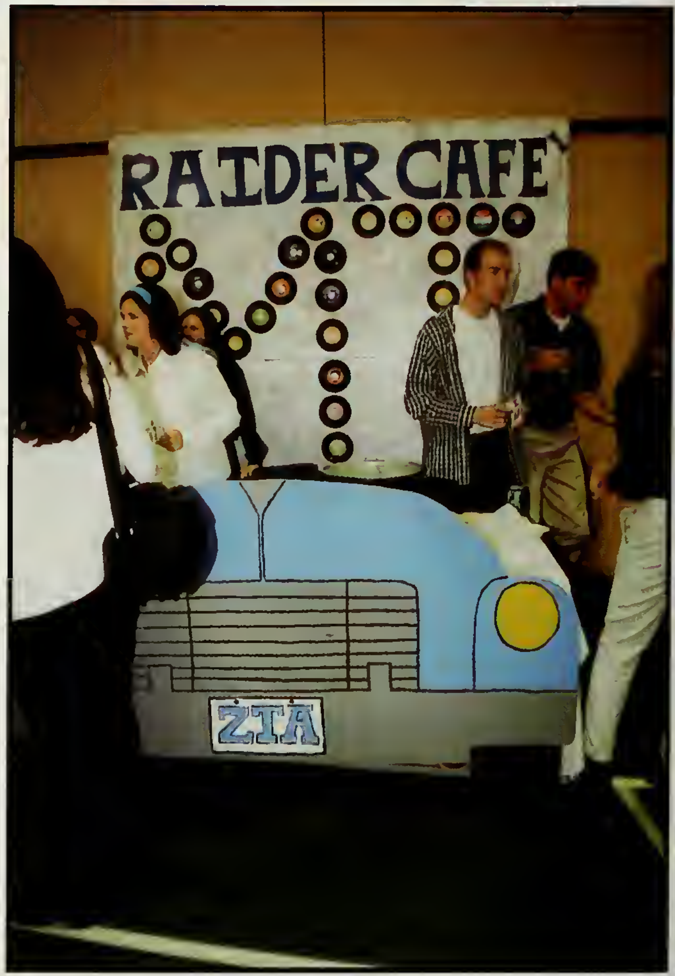
It's all about the partying! NOT!!! While fraternities have been known for partying and hazing, MTSU is focusing on making the grades and working for good causes. And the emphasis is paying off. MTSU's Interfraternity organizations pledged more new members during fall recruitment this year. Members waited on the KUC lawn while bids were extended to new members. And after all the initial excitement, pledges were whisked away to get busy working to build the brotherhoods.

Rockin' and Rollin'

Homecoming 2000 rocks

The Great Bowls of Fire Chili Cookoff and the Fight Song Competition are two of the events leading up to Saturday's Homecoming Day. Alumni organizations, Greek organizations and religious groups are among the many who participate in Homecoming each year. Saturday morning's parade is the lead-off event that welcomes MTSU's alums back to campus.

Above: Elisa Fisk
Right and above right: Matthew Starling



with the Raiders

the campus with excitement

All photos on this page by Elisa Fisk

THE WESLEY FOUNDATION AT MTSU
Rockin & Rollin with THE RAIDERS
ELVIS LIVES
ELVIS

Soaring Home

All photos on this page by Matthew Starling

Activities, halftime show draw alums, students

Marcia Tesar and Bobby Toy
Photo by Elisa Fisk.

Meagan Frazier and Robbi Janson (left) and Megan Hearon and Frank Fuentes
Photo by Elisa Fisk.

Andrea Gooch and Matt Thie
Photo by Matthew Starling.

Katherine Batey and Chris Montague
Photo by Matthew Starling.

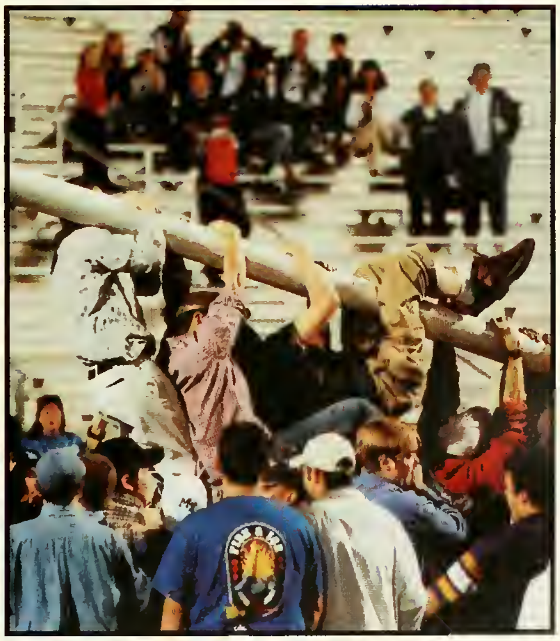
Homecoming 2000 was highlighted with pre-game extreme sports and hot-air ballooning on the stadium lawn off of Greenland Drive. These events were sponsored by Student Programming Special Events Committee. The Homecoming Court is introduced during halftime of the football game.

A Grand Finale

Senior Katherine Batey, who double majors in agribusinesss and nutrition and food science, is named 2000 Homecoming Queen and is assisted by 1999 Queen Trina Weddington. Matt Thie was named Homecoming King. They were assisted by Paul Plaisance, Brittney Thornbury, Lauren Massey and Brandon Thornbury.
Top and right: Matthew Starling. Above: Elisa Fisk .

Time to Celebrate

A band member enjoys performing during the halftime extravaganza while students celebrate a shutout victory over Louisiana-Monroe by tearing down the goalpost.

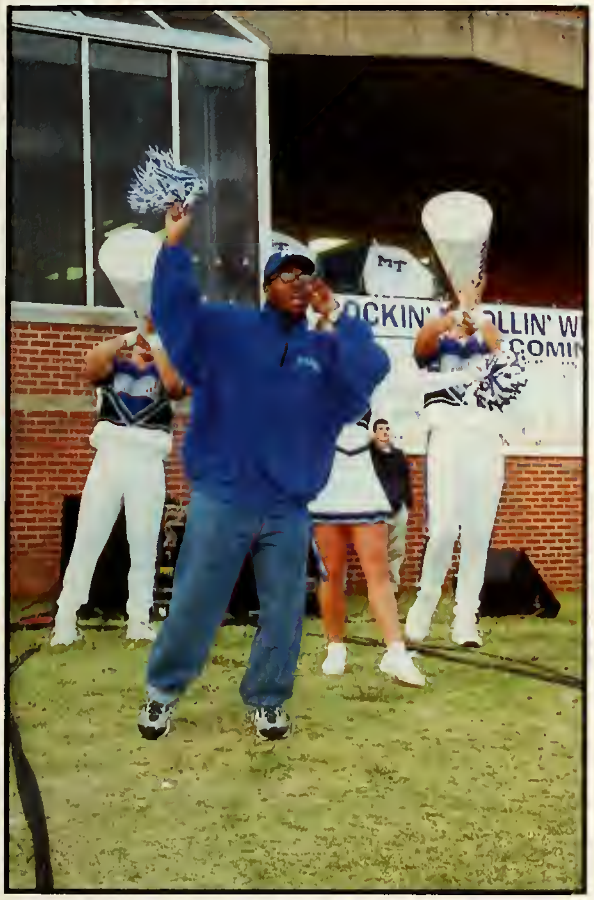


All photos on this page by Matthew Starling.

Sounds of Spirit

All photos on this page by Elisa Fisk

Lift Campus



All photos on this page by Elisa Fisk

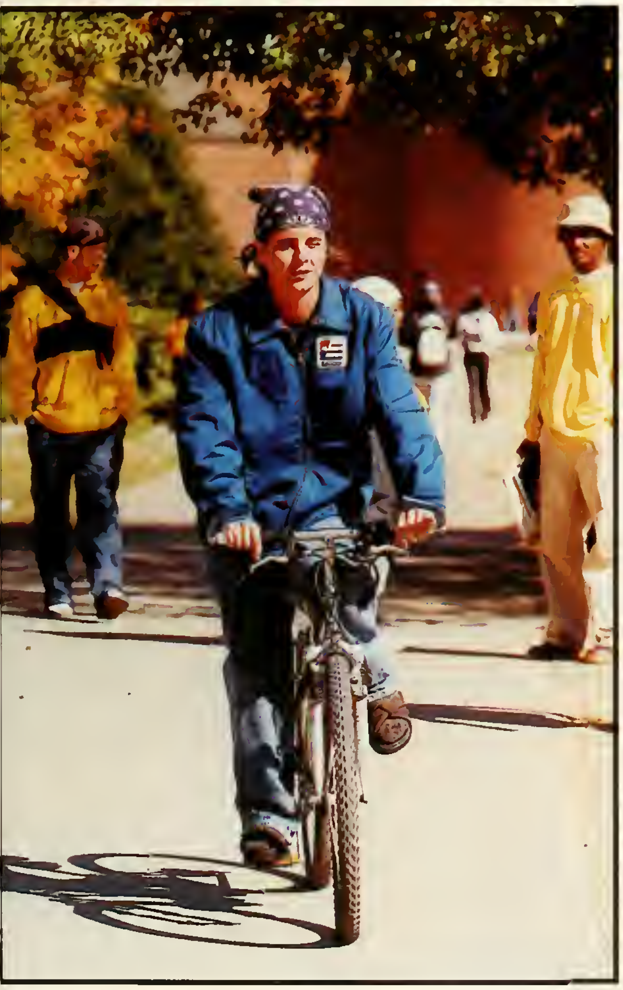
Scots Salute Heritage

The Scottish Festival is an annual event held on campus in October. Participants take part in dancing, games and displays. Many clans from around the region are represented at the event.

All photos on this page by Elisa Fisk

Hanging Out

Elisa Fisk



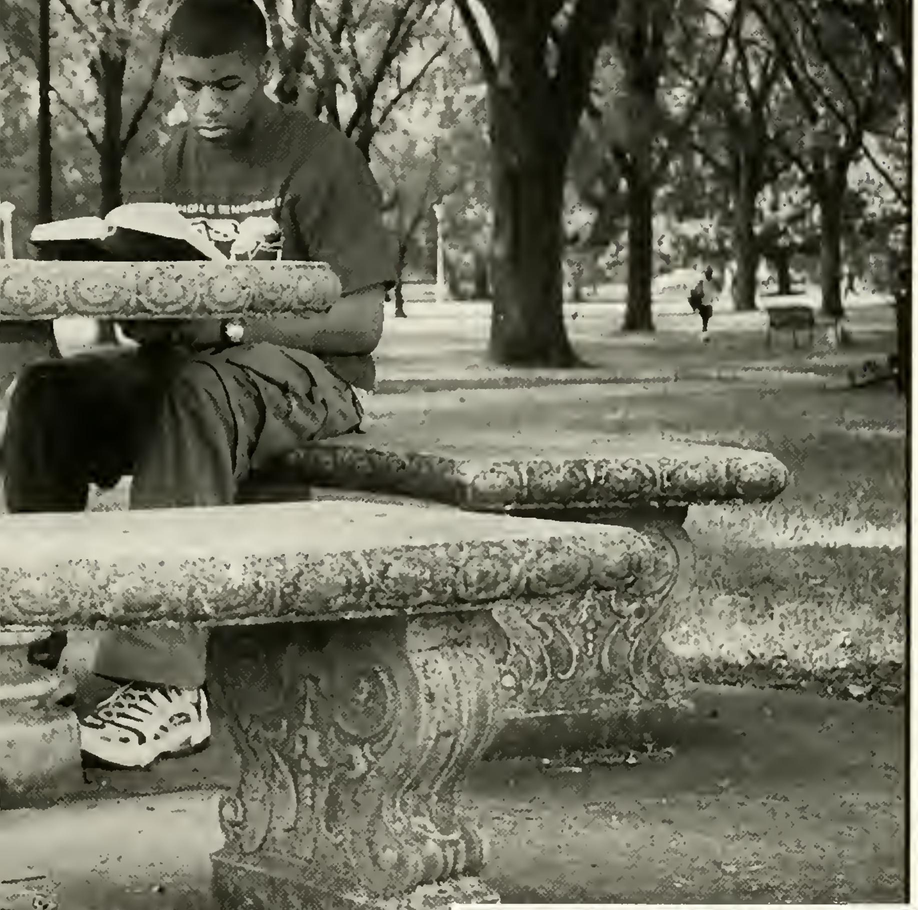
Top and Above: Matthew Starling

Elisa Fisk

Students find a variety of ways to relax after long days of hitting the books.

Elisa Fisk

Academics



Academic and administrative life is reaching new levels ... an interim president comes on board; a building is dedicated; top faculty are honored. Administration of the university is ever evolving, but the academic mission moves onward and upward.

Above and right: Elisa Fisk

2001

Photo by Matthew Starling

Being an influential and outstanding teacher sometimes means lighting the way for students that were previouly in the darkness. Jetta Halladay and her four fellow honored colleagues light up students' pathways and options everyday. This is only one of the many reasons why the five were named outstanding professors.

Outstanding professors recognized

Five special professors are recogized annually as outstanding based on the recommendations of their students and peers. The five talented people honored this year are Dr. Jetta Halladay, Dr. Cindi Smith-Walters, Dr. Stephen Krau, Dr. Kevin Smith and Dr. Ron Moser.

To qualify, the nominee must come highly recommended by two of three groups. These groups include the students, faculty and administration. From these recommendations, 15 finalists are chosen.

The 15 finalists are then heavily evaluated by the students in each nominee's classes and by the faculty peers of each nominee. Then a final score is tallied, with the student input counting 75 percent and the faculty input counting 25 percent.

And finally, the top three scores out of nearly 800 faculty members for those meeting certain criteria are the Outstanding Teacher Award honorees for the year. The process begins in January and continues until August, where the honorees are presented with their award and a $3,000 check at convocation, the annual university-wide faculty meeting.

Teaching is always goal of two-time award winner Moser

Photo by Matthew Starling

By Amanda Maynord

For the two-time Teacher of the Year award winner Dr. Ron Moser, teaching was always a No. 1 goal.

Dr. Moser was awarded Teacher of the Year at MTSU's fall faculty meeting. He admits to being surprised, but this award is not new to him.

Dr. Moser previously was awarded Teacher of the Year in 1984.

He confesses, "I always wanted to teach. I never lost sight of that goal."

Dr. Moser holds an array of degrees beginning with a Bachelors of Science from Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tenn., a MBA from MTSU, and a doctorial degree from the University of Tennessee - Knoxville.

Dr. Moser began his teaching career at the high school level. He was a member of the faculty at Antioch High School in Tennessee a year before becoming merchandise manager for Castner Knotts.

His college teaching career began at Volunteer State Community College, were he taught for 10 years. After leaving VSCC, he proudly joined the teaching staff here at MTSU.

When asked if he recommended teaching for everyone, Dr. Moser replied, "Teaching is for people who like to work with students, not everyone. I think you need to like being in an educational environment."

Dr. Moser is currently a professor of business and management and admits to being in his retirement years.

What will Dr. Moser do with those retirement years?

Well, when he is not educating America's youth, he enjoys playing with his grandson and taking long walks on the family farm.

Smith-Walters aims to reach the science 'unreachable'

By Jenny Cordle

Photo by Matthew Starling

It's a typical Wednesday in biology lab for students of Dr. Cindi Smith-Walters, who is teaching the students mitosis through a hands-on activity using forks, knives and spoons to simulate chromosomes.

Suddenly a student looks up and says, "You know, I never understood this before — now it all makes sense!" Smith-Walters smiles while doing a little victory dance as she sees the light go on in the student's eyes. She lives for that 'light' as she has for the past 25 years she's taught science at various schools.

At the fall convocation, Smith-Walters was among the five MTSU faculty members to receive the Outstanding Teacher Award given annually to worthy educators.

"I try to share my excitement about the natural world with my students and was pleased that someone noticed," said Smith-Walters about the award.

Smith-Walters has taught at MTSU as a professor of biology for eight years, but she's been passionate about science since she was a child.

"I was raised in the country," she explained. "When we played, we played outside. So, I guess you could say that I have always been interested in the out-of-doors and natural history kinds of things like: Where do frogs go in winter?, How many eggs are in the nest and what kind are they?, What kind of feather is that?"

After her first university lab class, Smith-Walters said she decided to major in Biology, but as she neared graduation she found that "biology jobs were few and far between" and required an advanced degree. So, she received her certification to teach and has been doing so ever since.

She admitted that her biggest challenge she has faced has been "reaching students who have never liked science.

"If I can reach those unreachable ones who have had instructors who either didn't like science either, didn't know science, or has them read the chapter and answer the questions, I can reach anybody.

"I think the best way to learn science is to do science," Smith-Walters said. "Mark Twain said, 'Grab a live cat by the tail and you'll learn things you'll never learn any other way.'"

African experiences inspire Krau

Photo by Matthew Starling

By Leslie Carol Boehms

While serving as a missionary in Africa, Stephen Krau became amazed at the lack of health care resources available to the people of Zaire, and thought his ministry would be more complete if he could meet physical health care needs of the people as well as educational and spiritual needs.

Simple things we take for granted here, like hand washing and other hygiene and safety practices, are a part of our culture. Dr. Krau was devastated by the lack of health care knowledge and resources in Africa, and went to nursing school in hopes of returning. Unfortiunately, Krau did not get to return once he completed his nursing education due to political unrest in the country.

During the time he was in Africa, Dr. Krau was a United Methodist missionary in Zaire. He taught Bible courses in the pastor's school and English in the high school. When he returned to the United States, he went to nursing school and was a naval officer for nine years, last serving as a corps school instructor at Great Lakes, where he taught post-secondary nursing courses and EMT courses.

Krau, who holds five degrees including a doctorate in nursing from the University of Tennesse - Knoxville that he completed in 1995, taught at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tenn., for three years before coming to MTSU. This is Krau's sixth year at MTSU. Being the only male faculty member in the School of Nursing is often laden with unusual experiences for Dr. Krau.

"Sometimes I feel I am in as foreign a culture as I was when I was in Zaire," said Krau. "Relationships with other faculty are interesting. Students seem more accepting of a male faculty member than some of the faculty. I try to blend, but it is hard."

Dr. Krau also works with former students as a staff nurse in critical care at Vanderbilt. "My reward is seeing their success and knowing that I had a part in their lives," said Krau. "I am also aware that each student that graduates from our program will touch hundreds of lives in their career, and in a most wonderful way, I feel I touch the same lives through my contribution to the student. I have the most amazing situation to see where I have made a difference."

Having seen disease, pestilence and death in Africa and working as a nurse in critical care when the line between life and death is very thin, Krau has witnessed much death and has helped many cope with the death of their loved ones. These experiences have molded his perspective of life that he shares with students.

"I have learned not to take myself or others too seriously," said Krau. "There are few matters that are truly a matter of 'life or death' although we sometimes lose sight of that. Life is a precious commodity, not to be wasted. If you can't laugh at yourself and with others, what is the point?"

Smith digs for clues to the past

By Sara Jane Vaughn

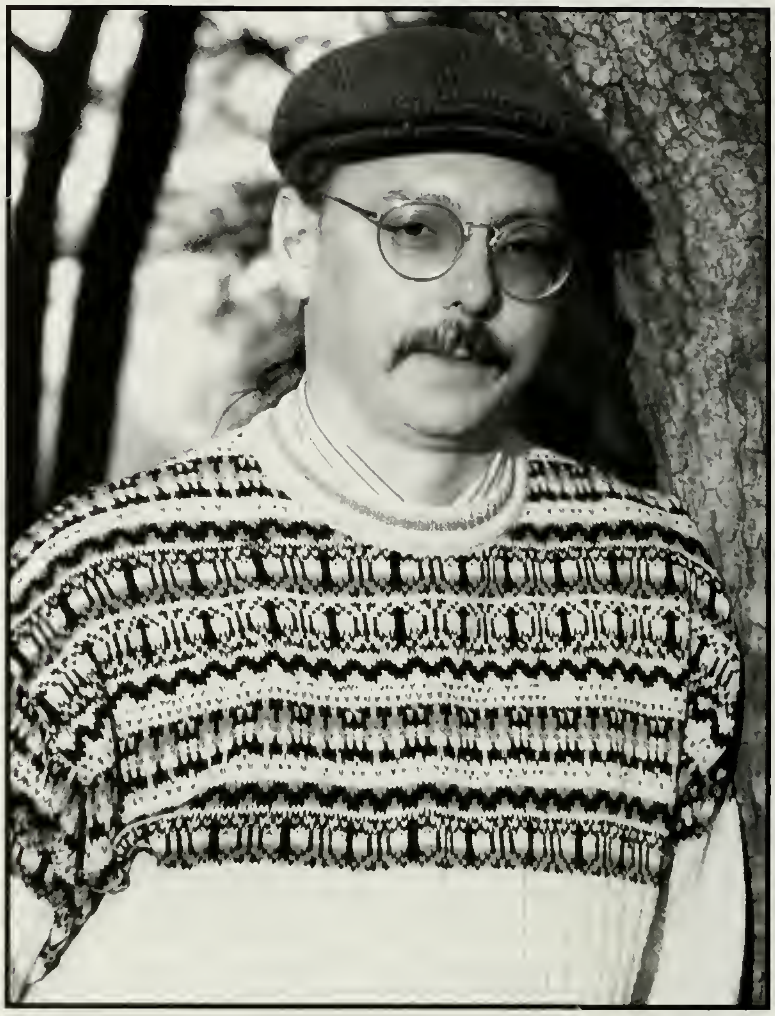


Photo by Matthew Starling

Dr. Kevin Smith is always digging for something, whether in his classroom helping students dig for the truth or out in the field digging for the past.

Smith, who serves as chair of the anthropology department, was one of five outstanding teachers for the 1999-2000 academic year.

"Students are what matters, this award is worth it when you have interesting and talented students interested in their field," said Smith, who was deeply involved in the addition of an anthropology major at MTSU in 1996.

Smith received his bachelor's, master's (1990) and doctorate (1992) in anthropology at Vanderbilt University. He began teaching at MTSU as an adjunct in 1988 and became a full-time faculty member in 1994.

In addition to teaching, Smith has lead four summers of archaeology field studies.

"A lot of what I try to do is involve my students in my research," said Smith. "It is hands on, they actually go out and do the work, it's not just book learning."

Students from other universities often participate in the field studies, which are regular course offerings of MTSU. "Our field schools are usually more educational and more affordable," said Smith.

The local historical association and Tennessee State Parks have helped with funding. "Tennessee State Parks have given 50 percent housing discounts for students," said Smith.

Dr. Smith is published at least a couple of times a year. The most recent publication was "Bledsoe Station: Archaeology, History and the Interpretation of the Middle Tennessee Frontier, 1770-1820," which appeared in the fall 2000 edition of "Tennessee Historical Quarterly."

Dr. Smith currently serves as president of the Tennessee Council for Professional Archaeology, editor for the Tennessee Anthropological Association, vice president/ editor for the Middle Cumberland Archaeological Society and as MTSU representative on the Governor's Archaeological Advisory Council.

Smith is always working on projects including on-going research in the archaeology of the Southeastern United States.

So, if he's not in class or in his office, you can probably catch him out there ... somewhere ... looking for clues to unravel the past.

Honoree Halladay proud of recognition by students, peers

Photo by Matthew Starling

By Rachel Robinson

If she couldn't be here teaching or performing, Dr. Jetta Halladay would be out hiking somewhere in the Canadian woods.

A new asset to the theater department, Halladay also received the 1999-2000 Outstanding Teacher Award.

"This award means a great deal to me because both faculty and students fill out the evaluations for it, and it shows me that I have the recognition of my fellow peers as well as students," said Halladay.

Halladay, whose first name is a common female Danish name for giant or warrior, has been a Murfreesboro resident and MTSU teacher for seven years. She grew up in Ripon, Calif., a small farm town, and did her undergraduate work at Brigham-Young University where she majored in English for one semester.

"At first , I thought, 'I can't major in theater.' But after one semester of English, I realized that I could," she says. Growing up in Ripton, Halladay had hopes of somedy becoming a dancer. This sparked an interest in the performing arts and led her to a love of theater.

After finishing her undergraduate work, she went on to the University of Utah. During this time, she and some other students wrote a small play and actually performed it in Russia and Europe.

She eventually moved to Murfreesboro after accepting a job at MTSU. With the help of the $3,000 award money, she recently purchased a home. Halladay is obviously enjoying life right now.

"If I had to pick anyplace in the world to be, and do whatever I wanted, I would choose right here, right now. But if that wasn't possible then I would hike through Canada," she says contently. "I really enjoy working with MTSU students and the outreach program that helps children in the community. That's wonderful."

So, what can MTSU expect from the theater department in the future? Halladay says they have a "marvelous" new dance program and the regular five-show season to entertain audiences. Special student-written and directed plays are also in the works, along with the outreach program where students help children in different schools in the community become more involved in performing arts.

Business College named

Jennings Jones College

By Tom Tozer

The dedication ceremony for MTSU's Jennings A. Jones College of Business took place July 10.

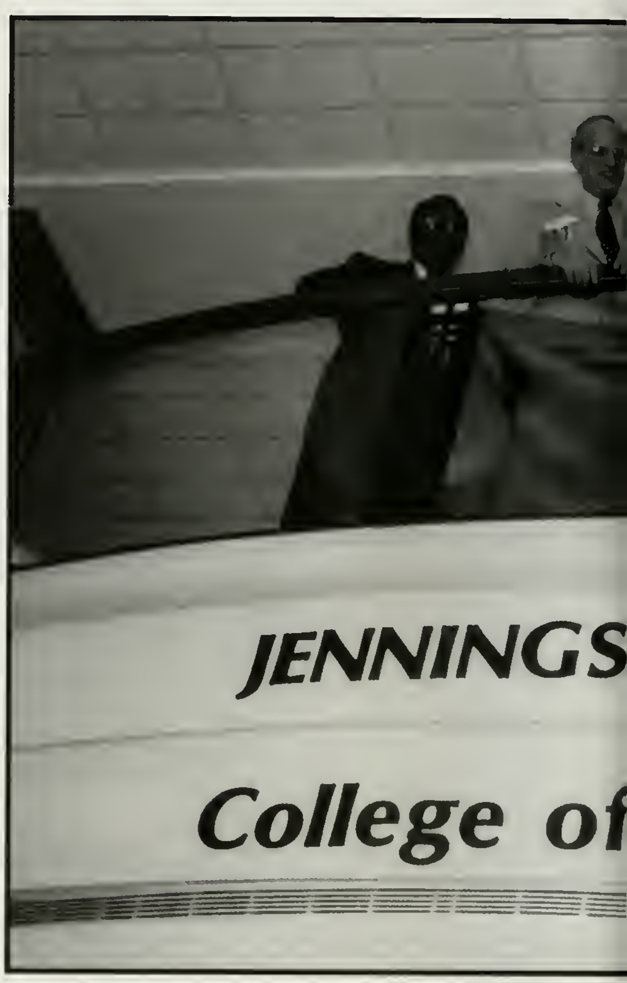
The Tennessee Board of Regents approved the renaming of the college at the body's March meeting.

"If you wanted to include all the people who would like to pay tribute to Jennings Jones, we would have to make it a weeklong event," quipped Dr. Jim Burton, Business dean, who presided over the program. "So we've invited just a handful of friends who, through their words, will speak for all of us who have grown to love and respect this kind and generous human being, Jennings Jones, and his wife, Rebecca."

President James E. Walker welcomed invited guests, followed by a greeting from TBR Chancellor Charles W. Manning.

Dr. Barbara Haskew, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs; Ambassador Joe M. Rodgers, former holder (for 10 years) of the Jennings Jones Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise; and Earl Swensson, holder of the more recently established Jennings and Rebecca Jones Chair of Excellence in Urban and Regional Planning, offered "remembrances" of their association with the philanthropist and former mayor of Murfreesboro (1950-54).

In an earlier letter to then-Chancellor Charles E. Smith recommending the renaming, then-President Walker wrote "This action will bring much deserved recognition to an individual who has been an indispensable patron of the college and university for many many years." In addition to his contributions to the university, he has been an outstanding businessman and visionary civic leader."



Former MTSU President James Walker,Chancellor
Burton, the dean of the College of Business, remove
of Business. Jones felt much gratification to being

Walker presented Jones with the MTSU President's Award during the university's 1999 Spring Commencement. Walker selected Jones for the honor with input from faculty, students, administrators, alumni, members of university-related boards and advisory groups, and friends of MTSU.

"Jennings' life and work experiences and the gifts he has made to the university program have made us richer and our programs richer," added Haskew "The Joneses have shaped the lives of countless students." Haskew served as dean of the College of Business from 1988 to 1995.

Business College named

# of Business dedicated

Photo by Derrick Wilson

Charles E. Smith, Jennings A. Jones and Jim
the tarp announcing the new name of the College
remembered in this way.

Burton says while he knows Jones will be pleased with the honor, "it really is even more an honor for us than it is for him. I have admired his accomplishments, philanthropy, and vision." Jones turned 90 this year.

When Jones first learned that the renaming of the college was in the works, he was delighted.

"I consider it quite an honor, and it makes me feel real good that I've been recognized in this way," he said upon learning about the naming recommendation. "I've been real happy with how they have used what I have given to the program — they've done such a good job. I think they're right on track."

Jones was born in 1909 in Del Rio, Tenn., a small community 11 miles out of Newport in Cocke County. After graduating from high school at age 16, Jones wanted to pursue study in electrical engineering at the University of Tennessee. He graduated from there in 1931.

Jones and his wife, Rebecca, met in January 1937 and were married that June.

After working as an electrical engineer with Tennessee Electrical Power, first in Cleveland, then Chattanooga, and later Murfreesboro, the budding entrepreneur opened Jones Locker and Cold Storage System in 1939. In 1941, he was called to active duty in the Army and eventually attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

In 1946, Jones became chair of the Murfreesboro Planning Commission and served until 1950. In 1948, Gov. Gordon Browning appointed him to the Tennessee State Planning Commission, which he would later chair. From 1950 to 1954, he served as mayor of Murfreesboro.

Jones was the visionary behind several roadway additions in Murfreesboro as well as surrounding arteries and two major interchanges from Interstate 24. He was also influential in the development of Mitchell Neilson Primary and Elementary schools as well as Hobgood, Bradley, and Bellwood elementaries. He helped sponsor a program called Free Enterprise Friday in conjunction with Junior Achievement, the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, and Murfreesboro City Schools.

"Beyond MTSU, the Joneses' investment in education has quite literally raised the bar on the quality of life for thousands of children, young people, and older citizens who have lived and worked right here at home in Middle Tennessee," Walker affirmed.

Interim President

Photo by Jessica Norton

Dr. Smith is already at work as the new interim president of MTSU. Smith was chosen because of his many leadership qualities and staff members have the faith that he will get the job done for the next year that he is here.

Smith settles in as interim president

Dr. R. Eugene Smith was named interim president at MTSU, announced Dr. Charles Manning, chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents, on Aug. 25, 2000.

Smith, an MTSU alumnus, has served as the vice president for business and finance at the University of Memphis since 1971.

He has a unique blend of outstanding administrative leadership and knowledge of MTSU and the TBR system that will enable him to maintain the forward momentum of the university.

"Gene Smith is an outstanding leader who has served the TBR well for almost 40 years," Manning said. "He was born in Middle Tennessee, is a distinguished alumnus of MTSU, and knows the region well."

We have been very impressed with the leadership of Dr. (James E.) Walker and the direction that MTSU has been traveling during the last decade. We want to maintain that momentum,and Gene Smith is the best person to do just that.

"The leadership team at MTSU is strong and capable, and Gene will work well with this team to keep the university moving during this interim period," the chancellor added.

Smith worked closely with President Walker until Walker's last day at MTSU on Oct. 1. Smith will remain interim president for approximately one year.

Born in Walter Hill in Rutherford County to the late Nora and Eugene Smith, Smith attended elementary and high school in Lebanon. A 1957 graduate of MTSU, he was awarded the university's Distinguished Alumnus Award for Professional Achievement in 1997.

Highly respected for his business acumen, Smith has had tremendous influence among his business and financial peers in the academic world. He is the only Tennessean ever to be elected president of both the Southern and National Association of College and University Business Officers.

Smith also received the National Association of College and University Business Officers Distinguished Business Officer Award in 1994 and the University of Memphis Society Educator of the Year Award in 1999.

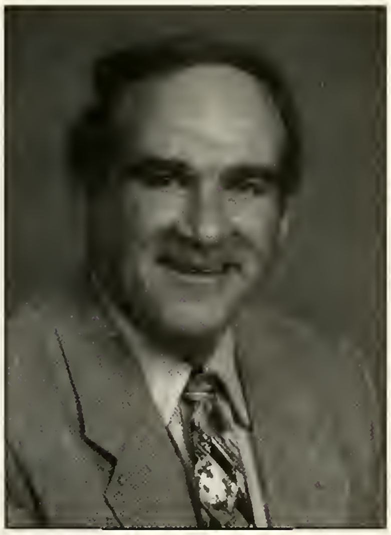
Smith has a doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Mississippi (1979) and a master of arts from Memphis State University (1966). He is married to Anne Clement Smith of Paris, Tenn., and has three children — Danny, David and Genie Ann.

The President and his staff

R. Eugene Smith
Interim President

Brenda Burkhart
Internal Audit Director

Wendy Thompson
Legal Assistant



Boots Donnelly
Interim Athletic Director

Forrestine Williams
AA/EEOC director

Academic Affairs

Barbara S. Haskew
Provost/VP for Academic Affairs

Robert B. Jones
Associate Provost of Academic Affairs

Rebecca Cole
Associate VP, Academic Resources

Faye Johnson
Assistant to the VP

Cliff Gillespie
Assoc. VP, Enrollment Management

Bonnie Shipp
African-American Studies

Academics

Academic Affairs

Ron Aday
Aging Studies

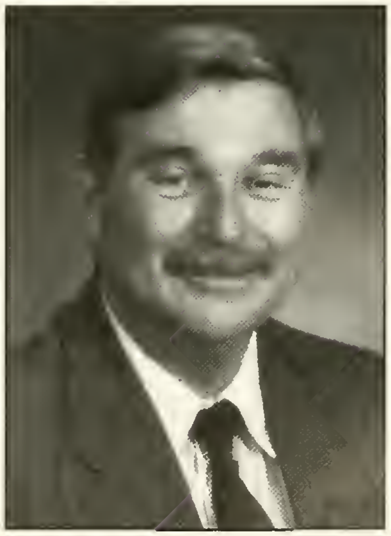
Wayne Rollins
Cooperative Education

Rosemary O. Owens
Continuing Studies

Carol H. Bader
Developmental Studies

William J. Badley
General Studies

Anne T. Sloan
Global Studies


Donald L. Curry
Dean of Graduate Studies

Academic Affairs

James K. Huhta
Center of Excellence in Historic Preservation

Paul F. Wells
Center of Excellence in Popular Music

Tech Wubneh
International Programs

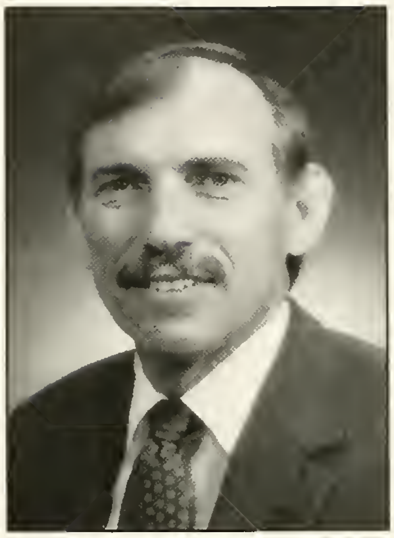
Jeanne Massaquoi
Athlete Enchancement Center

Don Craig
Dean, University Library

Elyce Rae Helford
Director of Women's Studies

John Paul Montgomery
Dean, Honors College

Basic and Applied Sciences



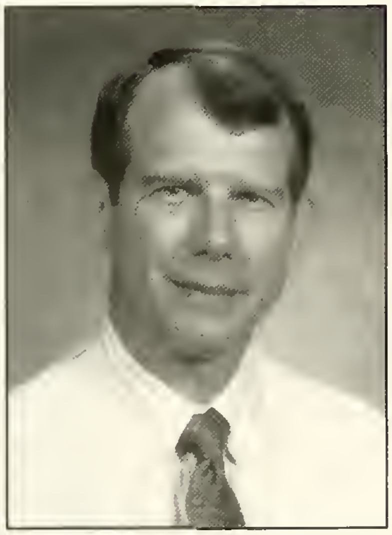
E. Ray Phillips
Interim Director, Basic and Applied Sciences

Ronald J. Ferrara
Aerospace

Thomas J. Cheatham
Interim Associate Dean, Basic and Applied Sciences

George G. Murphy
Biology

Earl F. Pearson
Chemistry



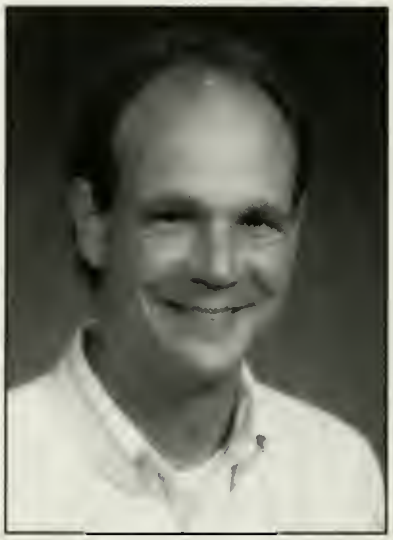
Richard Detmer
Computer Science

Basic and Applied Sciences

Harley W. Foutch
Agribusiness and Agriscience

Pamela J. Holder
Nursing

Jim Lorenz
Industrial Studies


Curtis Church
Mathematical Sciences

Donald M. Ferrell
Military Science

Robert F. Carlton
Physics and Astronomy

Business

Jim Burton
Dean, College of Business

Dwight Bullard
Associate Dean, Business

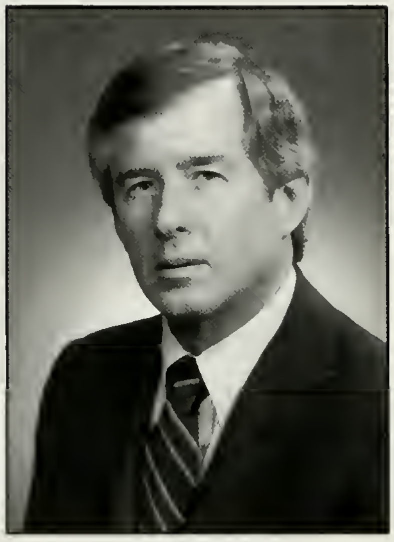
Kenneth Harmon
Accounting

Linda McGrew
BMOM

Lee Maier
Computer Information Systems

Business

Jill Austin
Management and Marketing



John Lee
Economics and Finance

Photo by Elisa Fisk

Students pay close attention to what representatives from Washington Mutual Finance have to say about job opportunities with their companies. Career days, like this one, give students the chance to investigate what they are interested in or to talk to local companies about job openings.

Education and Behavioral Science

Gloria Bonner
Dean, College of Education and Behavior Science

Bella Higdon
Interim Associate Dean

Jim Huffman
Interim Chair of Educational Leadership

Race Bergman
Elementary and Special Ed.

Martha Whaley
HPERS

Dellmar Walker
Interim Chair of Human Sciences

Education and Behavioral Science

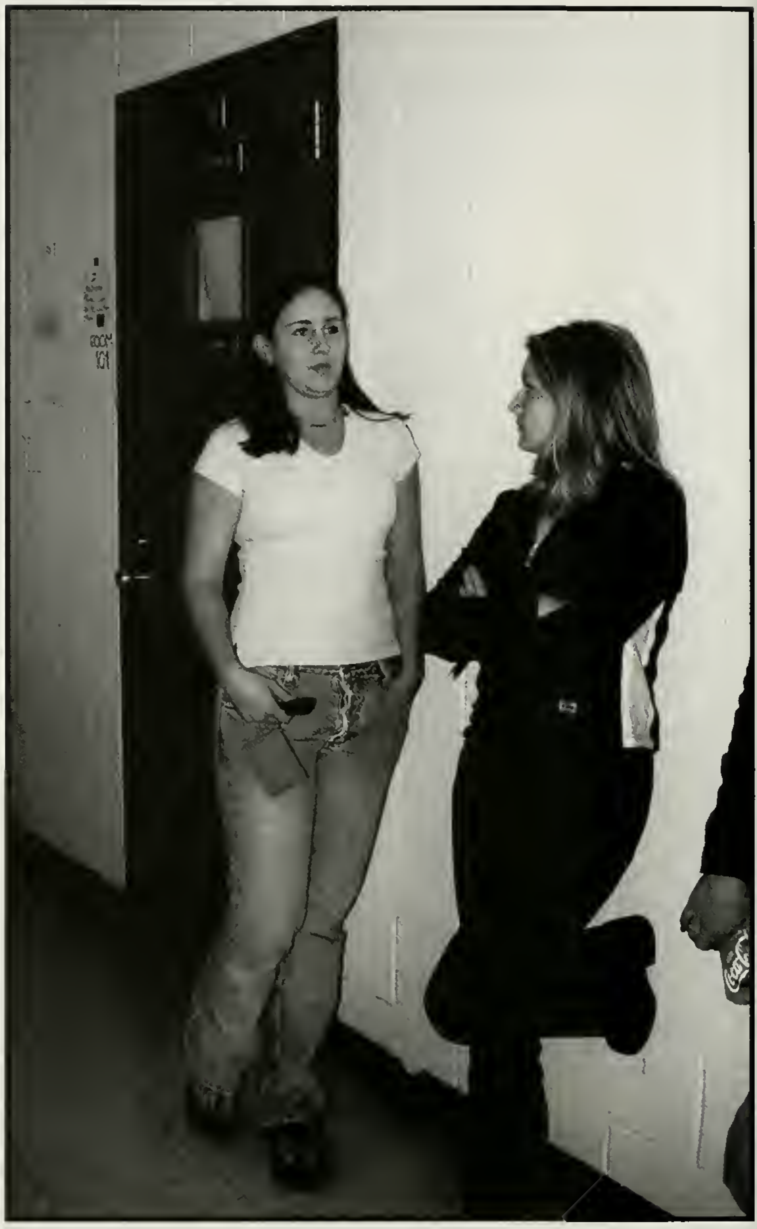
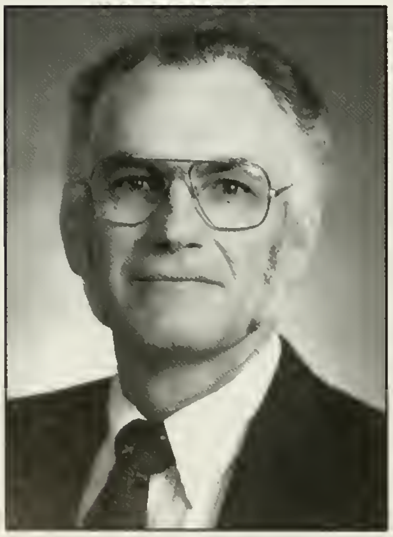


Photo by Elisa Fisk

Students talk while waiting for the teacher to arrive at their classroom in Kirksey Old Main. Once built to house education classrooms for future teachers the KOM has changed into an "all subject" building.



Larry Morris
Psychology

Frank Lee
Criminal Justice Administration

Connie Schmidt
Industrial Technology Support

Liberal Arts

John N. McDaniel
Dean, Liberal Arts

James T. Brooks
Associate Dean

George Pimentel
Assistant to the Dean

Mark Price
Art

William Connelly
English

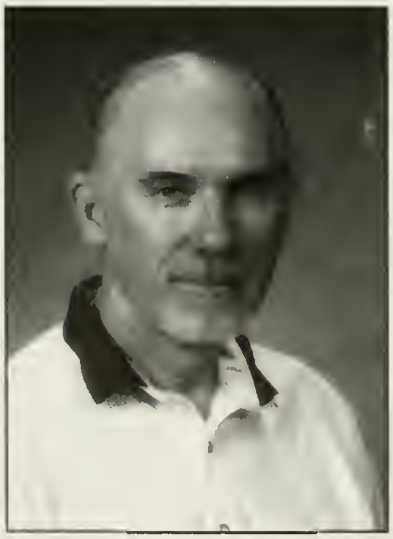
Liberal Arts

Thaddeus Smith
History

Roger Kugler
Music

Ron Bombardi
Philosophy

John Vile
Political Science


Charles Frost
Social Work

Edward Kick
Sociology and Anthropology

Russell Church
Speech and Theatre

Academics

Mass Communication

Deryl R. Leaming
Dean, Mass Communication

Matthew O'Brien
Associate Dean, Mass Communication

Richard Campbell
Journalism

Bob Spires
Radio-TV/ Photography

Chris Haseleu
Recording Industry

Development and University Relations

Linda Hare
VP, Development and University Relations

Deborah Gentry
Assistant VP

Debbie Coppinger
Alumni Relations

Doug Williams
News and Public Affairs

Jack Ross
Photographic Services

Suma Clark
Publications and Graphics

Finance and Administration

Duane Stucky
VP, Finance and Administration

Mike Gower
Associate VP

Deborah D. Roberts
Administartive Services

Joe Hugh
Procurement, Auxiliary Services

Patricia S. Miller
Campus Planning

William Smotherman
Construction Administration

Lucinda T. Lea
Associate VP, Information Technology

John S. Drugmand
Public Safety

Matthew Starling

Students in an introductory computer science class try to figure out how to set up their own web pages. The computer labs in the Kirksey Old Main are maintained by the Office of Information Technology.

$2 million gift inspires big plans

By Tom Tozer

It's just "a walk across the street" for Paul and Lee Martin. But their $2 million matching gift is a giant leap into the future for MTSU and its new Honors College—the only Honors College at a public university in the state.

Their gift, the second largest ever given to the university, will launch a new fund-raising campaign at MTSU to build a permanent home for the university's Honors College, a tribute to the memory of Paul W. Martin Sr., Paul and Lee's father. The gift, however, is much more than a monument to someone who has passed on, Paul Martin noted.

"We hope it will be an inspiration to those who are living to find an environment in which they can discover their own combination of education, morality, and community involvement," he said, referring to the three pillars of wisdom that emerge from Middle East culture. "Those who will improve our society are the people who have the desire to improve themselves, to exceed even their own personal expectations—that's really the motivation behind this gift."

A stipulation is that the university must match the $2 million.

"We're excited about the permanence of this opportunity to make a difference," brother Lee echoed. "The thing to me that I don't think MTSU realizes is that it has grown rapidly, and it is a major university. It's time to start thinking like a major university."

That "walk across the street" refers to the fact that the Martin brothers grew up in a little duplex across Tennessee Boulevard from MTSU. They played tennis on the MTSU tennis courts and often listened to music coming from the music buildings. Years later, Paul decided to enroll at the university that seemed almost like home to him, and in 1975—just two years and one semester later—was the first-ever graduate of MTSU's honors program.

> "We're excited about the permanence of this opportunity to make a difference. The thing to me that I don't think MTSU realizes is that it has grown rapidly, and it is a major university. It's time to start thinking like a major university."
>
> *Lee Martin*

The influence of their father on both men is profound. Lee tells the story of asking his father on his deathbed what made his professional life worthwhile. Paul Sr. told him to drive to a ridge outside of town and "you'll figure it out."

Lee was clueless. "Dad said, 'Just sit there and in a few minutes you'll see a light come on, then another, then another.' He told me that made all the difference for him. I said, 'What do you mean?' He said, 'I realize that through my efforts and the efforts of my team, I touch people who I will never meet.'"

The Martin brothers call their gift one of "educational renewal and educational commitment," in recognition of the honors program.

"It's a wonderful program, and I'm very proud," Paul said. "It has blossomed under Dr. [James E.] Walker's leadership and Dr. [John Paul] Montgomery's dedication."

Dean Montgomery describes the Martin gift as "the key to our completely outstripping all the other schools. The Honors College offers special skills. We've graduated over 130 superstars who have gone out and opened doors for the ones who have followed them. ... That "H" designation on their transcript signifying that they graduated from university Honors really means something [an idea first suggested by Paul Martin]. We are indebted to the Martins and their families."

"I like to help people help themselves," Paul summed up. "Our gift is a kind of logical extension of that effort. It's not about me or my brother. It's about helping people—improving the world."

Or as the old man would have put it—reaching out and touching the lives of countless people you'll never meet.

Veep to prof:

Al Gore moves from inside the D.

By Kristy Dalrymple

Students began arriving for Al Gore's first 4 p.m. class as early as 2:30 in the afternoon for the hopes of a front row seat to one of the most talked about lectures in school history.

The check-in process for Al Gore's community building class began at 3:30 p.m. All students had to show their student IDs in order to receive their name tag and gain admittance into the lecture hall. There were two cops at the entrance the students used and two Secret Service agents where Professor Al Gore would enter.

Most students didn't know what to expect from the class but all waited anxiously for Professor Gore to walk through the doors of the State Farm Lecture Hall in the Business and Aerospace Building.

Gore walked in unannounced, waved to the audience and took a seat at the front of the room. When Interim President Eugene Smith announced Gore, he received a standing ovation.

"I am going to expect that at the beginning of every class," Gore said jokingly at the welcome he received.

Matthew Starling

Al Gore waves to the crowd following his first lecture in his "Community Building: A Comprensive Family-Centered Approach" course at MTSU. Gore led 10 sessions of the course at both MTSU and Nashville's Fisk University during the spring 2001 semester.

Gore thanked the university and all the faculty in assisting him with putting the class together so quickly.

"I am quite keenly aware that this is not the normal pace with which a course is developed and offered. I am extremely grateful for the hard work and courtesy that made this possible," Gore said, adding that most classes take several years to develop and his course was developed in mere days.

Gore began the February 2001 lecture like all first-day professors. He gave an overview of the course and what students could expect. He then admitted to the class that he was scared to death of teaching the course. The official title of the course was "Community Building: A Comprehensive Family-Centered Approach." It was comprised of ten sessions which were taught by Professor Gore, as well as

C. Beltway to inside the classroom

guest professors and speakers.

Ranging from the prenatal child to parents, education and intergenerational relationships, Gore tied the whole course together in the end by looking at the challenges that face the family and community in the future.

The first lecture was conducted by Professor Gore and special guests Congressman John Lewis of Georgia and Denise Fairchild, founder and president of the Community Development Technologies Center at Los Angeles Trade Technical College.

The lecture itself was conducted much like a community forum. There were cordless microphones in the aisleways to pass around. Once Gore began the session it was conducted the same manner as any other lecture. Gore encouraged audience participation, and his lectures were both serious and entertaining.

Vickie Gibson

Al Gore signs an autograph for one of his 125 student after his first day of class at MTSU.

in

"John and I are kind of like test pilots," Gore said. "What that means is this course is not yet safe for a real professor to teach. So if we crash and burn, the emergency exits are here, on the sides there and back there."

As the session got underway everyone became more relaxed. The students got involved in brainstorming ideas about a family and shared personal experiences from their families. Gore also appeared to gain confidence and get comfortable with what he was doing. Gore never said anything about the election; he stayed focused on his current project: the class.

The first lecture was background information to be used throughout the course. All ideas presented were tied to subsequent lectures as Gore taught students how to develop a stronger community for the future.

There were no set tests or assigned papers for the class, which was offered for two credits on a pass-fail basis. MTSU professors in four departments – Delmar Walker, Ed Kimbrell, John Vile and Ed Kick – oversaw students' work for their respective departments. After each session of the class, a reception was held for everyone in the lecture to meet and talk with Gore. The Secret Service agents allowed Gore to mingle through the crowd of students but always had their eye on him. Gore made himself very accessible to the students, faculty and visitors present at each lecture and appeared eager to talk with everyone.

The concept for the course first came to light two years ago at a family policy conference, called Family Reunion, which takes place in Nashville. The conference is an annual meeting that Gore and his wife Tipper host every year. The meeting two years ago focused on families and communities.

Gore issued a challenge to all academic experts who were in at the conference. He challenged them to attempt to develop a new course, curriculum and – eventually – a degree program that would specialize in family-centered community building. University of California-Los Angeles was the first university of 18 to answer the challenge. UCLA developed a national consortium to develop the curriculum for these courses.

MTSU is one of two flagship schools that are testing the curriculum. However, all 18 universities in the consortium have helped in establishing the curriculum.

Class reminds students to watch waste

By Lisa L. Rollins

Sesame Street's beloved Oscar the Grouch isn't the only one who loves trash – so do some predators and would-be criminals.

Dr. Pat Nation, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology, explained to those enrolled in her Criminology 430 class how one person's trash can easily serve as a treasure chest of information for someone wanting to know more about an individual or family.

"For everything that comes into our households, there has to be waste," says Nation. "[And] our waste can be a direct reflection of our households; socioeconomic, gender, age, family size, ethnicity, religion, political affiliations and more."

> "For everything that comes into our households, there has to be waste. Our waste can be a direct reflection of our households; socioeconomic, gender, age, family size, ethnicity, religion, political affiliations and more."
>
> *Pat Nation*

In short, "With a few bags of garbage obtained in a consistent manner, a profile of a family can take shape," she adds.

What do our throw-away items tell those who are willing to rummage through our garbage about us? Well, they can reveal quite a bit, actually, notes Nation, including information about one's age, gender, sexual behaviors, socioeconomic status, credit information, health, political and religious affiliations, hobbies, place of work or school—and that's just for starters.

To demonstrate her point, Nation presented students with a long table strewn with "clean" trash. Then, as an in-class exercise, Nation encouraged students to pick through the debris and glean what information they could discern. Only minutes later, a fairly well-rounded profile of an upper-middle class, four-person, coupon-cutting, fast food-eating, family began to emerge. For example, an inordinate amount of emptied transmission fluid containers and auto repair bills indicated that one of the family's cars—possibly driven by a teen female—was on the blink. And while this bit of information might be no big find to many, for someone with a criminal mind, especially someone who wished to prey upon the young woman, the find would be quite valuable—and for all the wrong reasons.

"We typically throw away enough information about ourselves to give someone access to our identity," warns Nation. "When we throw away old phone bills, electric bills, advertisements, receipts, et cetera, we give direct access to our economic world."

Even renting a video, says Nation, can require that individuals reveal very personal data, from social security and driver's license numbers to the maiden name of one's mother. To regularly give out such personal information, and especially one's driver's license number, can easily set one up to be victimized.

"We give a tremendous amount of information to people when we interact, and when you give out your driver's license, you're allowing someone to have information to access your life," she says.

Nevertheless, "There are precautions that we can take to lessen the probability of being victimized," Nation offers. "It's important to be aware of what can be used against you, and you need to be alert. Utilize the power that you do have and ask questions. If someone asks you information that you are not comfortable giving out, or if someone asks you information that is too personal, say 'no.'"

A good first step toward protecting one's self from "trashing-digging" predators is to buy a paper shredder—one with "a good gauge that will do a decent job," and use it, says Nation, who adds that such shredders are considerably more affordable than they've been in the past.

As for hard 'n' fast rules of protection, Nation says, "If a video store wants your mom's maiden name, don't give it out. They probably already have your driver's license and credit card, and that's plenty of information to rent a $1.99 movie.

"And never," she says, "give out information on the phone. ... Always be aware of what you're making available to those who may want to victimize."

Ground broken on new dyslexia center

By Tom Tozer

The 7th-grader could not read, spell or do math. He was constantly in tears because of his feelings of shame and embarrassment. His mother brought him to the Tennessee Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia, and soon he started improving. What emerged even more dramatically than her son's progress in those skills, his mother observed, was his self-confidence. Over the next two years, the young man's world—both inside and out—was gradually transformed.

That, says Dr. Diane Sawyer, sums up the purpose and mission of the seven-year-old program and her job as director of the center and holder of the Katherine Davis Murfree Chair of Excellence in Dyslexic Studies at MTSU. That also explains why she and her staff were so excited about the Dec. 5 groundbreaking for a new $1.5 million facility at the corner of Baird Lane and Elrod Street.

Dyslexia is a language-based learning disorder that is biological in origin and interferes primarily with mastering reading, writing, and spelling. It is characterized by poor reading and spelling abilities and the inability to translate the sounds of words into a correct order; thus, causing the misspelling of words—often the transposing of adjacent letters.

Literally hundreds of children have been tested in the center. According to center figures, approximately 8,000 teachers and students in pre-service classes have been informed or prepared to serve students with dyslexia through consultation, workshops, and lectures, impacting more than 160,000 children each year. Since the center's inception, 113 of 139 county and city school systems in Tennessee have had contact with the center through services to students or inservice programs for professionals.

Ken Robinson

Approximately 150 people turned out for the Dec. 5 groundbreaking for the new Tennessee Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia, which will be located on the corner of Baird and Elrod Street. Here, Katherine Davis Murfree, left, namesake of the Katherine Davis Murfree Chair of Excellence in Dyslexic Studies, and Dr. Diane Sawyer, chairholder, provide a symbolic start for the $1.5 million, 4,300-square-foot facility.

Information from the center states that the dropout rate for dyslexic students is high. Employment is difficult to find and keep. Research reveals that 68 percent of adults in Tennessee penal institutions read below the 8th-grade level—and 65 percent of them are school dropouts. Among juvenile offenders, 100 percent read below their grade levels.

The uniqueness of the center stems from the fact that not only does it provide services to students with dyslexia, but it also provides education to the psychologists and teachers who must identify and instruct those with the learning disorder. Perhaps most importantly, the center's work is always focused on preparation and the eventual transfer of a student back into the school environment.

"We're in the business of equipping and empowering education professionals to deal more effectively with dyslexic students in their own settings," Sawyer emphasized.

"Within the new center we are preparing to offer distance learning opportunities and to develop videotapes that permit us to promote staff development opportunities at a time when it is convenient for the school systems," she noted.

Professor Nuell receives award

The Teaching, Learning, and Technology Roundtable awarded Christie Nuell (art) with the Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Technology. Presenting the award are, from left, Dr. Robert Jones, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs and Dr. Gloria Bonner, dean, College of Education and Behavioral Science.

When Christie Nuell took art at MTSU into cyberspace, she made history for the university's art department. And now, thanks to her innovative approaches in teaching art, coupled with her dedication to keeping current with the latest technology, Nuell represented MTSU at the 12th International Conference on College Teaching.

A 19-year member of the art faculty, Nuell was presented with the 2001 Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Technology on Nov. 17. The honor is presented annually by MTSU's Teaching, Learning and Technology Roundtables.

Along with Nuell, Drs. Jong-Sung Lee (computer information systems) and Keith Walters (biology) also were nominated for the award. Each nominee will receive $500 in travel money from Academic Affairs to attend the Florida conference.

Dr. Connie Schmidt, chair of MTSU's Teaching, Learning and Technology Roundtable, says, "We [were] interested in nominees who enhance students' learning, improve their comprehension and retention, and ... enrich course experiences through the use of instructional technology."

Mark Price, art department chair, nominated Nuell for the teaching-meets-technology award, saying, "Nuell has long been the art department's single most reliable source of information and faculty initiatives in computer- and web-based teaching."

In addition to originating and teaching Orientation to Art on-line in 1999 and 2000, the art department's first general studies course and its first course ever to be taught on-line, Nuell also will teach Two-Dimensional Design, a first-time studio art course, in summer 2001. For her part, Nuell says she first became involved in learning about and implementing technology in several different ways.

"I initially became curious about authoring software in the early '90s when CD-ROMs were just coming out. I learned that," she says, "and then the web happened, and I learned how to make web pages."

Thus, in an effort to relate what she'd learned to her teaching area, Nuell says, "I produced some instructional content for a section of a general studies class (Art 290: Orientation to Art) I teach, both for the web and on CD. I also teach printmaking and created a web site to help printmakers find information, supplies, equipment, training, organizations, et cetera, on the Web."

Since that time, the printmaking site Nuell created (www.mtsu.edu/~art/printmaking) has expanded significantly and is now the largest-known web site in the world for professional printmakers.

Nevertheless, once Nuell was acclimated to utilizing technology, she says, she realized it was an area that should be included in the art department's curriculum. In turn, she adds, she wrote up three new classes in multimedia within the art department: Multimedia Design (web design), Multimedia Authoring I (CD-ROM authoring using Macromedia Director), and Multimedia Authoring II, an advanced course.

"The classes have proved popular and are always filled long before the first day of the semester," notes Nuell. "Students who have taken these classes have gone on to work on web design teams such as ABC News and 'Playboy.' [And] several students have started their own companies, such as MTSU students Daniel Box and Michael Eades with Somaticlabs.com.

"One student worked on a CD-ROM for the upcoming SuperBowl,and current students in my class show so much talent and creativity that I am sure we'll have even more success stories in the future."

In regard to the on-line classes Nuell's created, "In a nutshell, it's more work for both instructor and students, and I miss being in the same room with the students," she says. "However, there is no denying the fact that the level of engagement that takes place between the student and the course material can be tremendously amplified this way. It isn't for everyone, or every course, but it's here to stay."

HHS, Mass Comm join to tackle tobacco's message to youth

By Tom Tozer

The Center for Health and Human Services received a $150,000 grant from the State of Tennessee to study the impact of tobacco advertising on minority youth in Rutherford County.

The grant is a result of a collaboration between the Center and the College of Mass Communication, commented center director Dr. Jo Edwards, adding the partnership carries out a objective of the Academic Master Plan – to create partnerships among disciplines to strengthen the university's academic core.

"Health messages and the methods of communicating those messages are integrally related," Edwards said. "Partnerships in research and service of the two disciplines make sense."

Dr. Teresa Mastin, assistant professor of journalism, will serve as the principle investigator for the project, Edwards noted. The goal of the hree-year project is to educate minority youth about advertising strategies of the obacco industry and to enable the young people to appraise methods by which the obacco companies target minorities.

The collection of health and human services programs at MTSU has grown to nclude 34 majors, concentrations, minors, and transdisciplinary programs. They are housed in eight academic departments and four colleges. The graduates of these programs represent 21 percent of MTSU's graduates over the last 10 years.

Edwards says there hasn't been a unified shared vision on campus in this broad area because various components have not been linked by physical proximity or by administration."Trying to get people to know and understand what one another does is tough – find out what they have in common," she said.

> "Because we are so scattered on campus, we haven't had an over-arching body of people that can carry the torch. We don't feel like we have enough clout to get some things done, even though the faculty and community tell us this is the direction we need to go."
>
> *Jo Edwards*

"Because we are so scattered on campus, we haven't had an over-arching body of people that can carry the torch. We don't feel like we have enough clout to get some things done, even though the faculty and community tell us this is the direction we need to go. So we're looking at establishing partnerships with regional visibility that will be more powerful and can look at us from a different perspective."

Edwards added other areas that need to be developed and brought under an all-inclusive umbrella nclude case management, geriatrics and health-care management, as well as graduate programs in nursing and communication disorders. She says she hopes that the possibility of establishing a sports management center at MTSU will mean bringing together such areas as sports nutrition and sports psychology.

Recently, the HHS Partnership gathered to refine and clarify their goals and strategies. Their first goal s to provide increased learning opportunities for students and, therefore, impact the quality and delivery of health and human services to the community.

Secondly, they want to enhance internal and external alliances. Those plans include recognizing partners, such as business and community leaders, through an honorary adjunct status designation.

The third goal is to improve the quality of life in the community by expanding university-community nteraction. Ways to accomplish this include having the Aging Studies Advisory Board develop a plan to expand MTSU's role in community-based aging programs, creating an interdisciplinary center for drug and alcohol dependency studies by fall 2001, and establishing a Psychological Services Clinic by 2001.

"I have found a lot of enthusiasm on campus and in the community for these changes," Edwards said. "I think people are genuinely enthused because there is already so much momentum at the university."

Member of music faculty performs with St. Louis Symphony Orchestra

MTSU's David Loucky, second from right, performs with members of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra (SLSO) during the St. Louis Cardinals' opening game of the 1999-2000 season. Pictured alongside Loucky, from left, are SLSO members Tom Drake, assistant principal trumpet; and far right, Michael Sanders, principal tuba.

An assistant music professor of trombone and low brass, David Loucky returned to MTSU earlier this semester after being granted what would ultimately become a two-year leave of absence to perform with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. Thus, after 700-plus days as the St. Louis orchestra's acting assistant principal trombonist, the music educator says he's returned to the university classroom with a much richer music experience than ever before.

"I always knew I'd be returning to teach at MTSU," says Loucky, who joined the university's faculty in 1989. "There are great students and faculty here, [and] we have just become a School of Music, which is more suited to the size and scope of what we offer to our students and community. Nevertheless, the SLSO performance experience, concedes Loucky, was "a rare opportunity to gain incredible experience ... and still retain (his) faculty position."

Having performed with various orchestras such as the Nashville and Huntsville symphonies, Loucky began with the SLSO in September 1998 and within three weeks was on a three-week European tour with the orchestra. The European tour, a West Coast tour, and performances in New York's Carnegie Hall were among the highlights of the orchestra's concert tours, he says.

Although the SLSO's members generally play in the St. Louis Powell Symphony Hall, which Loucky described as a "beautifully renovated theater," occasionally the orchestra members also perform in the St. Louis Cathedral-Basilica, an historic structure which Loucky describes as "a huge edifice, with intricate mosaics covering all the walls and ceilings—and an eight-second echo."

As an assistant principal player for an orchestra, Loucky says that one of his roles within the SLSO was to play on the concertos of any given concert.

"As a result," he explains, "I played on stage with a host of luminaries, among them Midori (violin), Sarah Chang (violin), Yo-Yo Ma (cello), Jon Kimura Parker (piano), Andre Watts (piano), Katia and Marielle Labeque (piano), Jean-Yves Thibaudet (piano), Joshua Bell (violin), Garrick Ohlsson (piano), Christian Tetzlaff (violin), and Orli Shaham (piano).

"I also worked with some terrific pop artists," he adds, "like Burt Bacharach, the Manhattan Rhythm Kings, Lou Rawls, Paul Winter, Lorna Luft, Banu Gibson, and steel pan player Liam Teague."

However, one of the musician's most memorable performance moments with the SLSO, he says, was not in a concert hall or historic cathedral, but on the diamond of baseball's Busch Stadium.

"I'll never forget the experience of playing the 'Star-Spangled Banner' behind home plate to open the 1999-2000 baseball season at Busch Stadium," he says. "I have a beautiful photo commemorating the event, and I watched Mark McGuire hit his first home run of the season (on his way to 66 that year)."

As for his SLSO performance opportunity, Loucky says he feels that as a music faculty member, it is vital to be professionally active.

"It means that you are always growing as a musician and not living in the past. It has always been my goal to be an active musician and dynamic music educator at the same time," he says. "In that way, students are always getting more out of their instruction."

Book arts group examines print culture

By Tom Tozer

You can't judge a book by its cover. You have to open the pages and take a whiff, then watch and listen to where it takes you. Taste the paper. Run your fingers along the spine. Look closely at the configuration of every illuminated cap and comma.

Not only are music, pictures, and stories the result of putting images on paper, but also there are suppositions and stories—perhaps mysteries—behind the very process of putting those images down.

That's what a new group called the MTSU Book Arts and Print Culture Group, get together and share—a common appreciation for the material book as a significant, living, breathing, cultural artifact.

"There's a lot of interest in the ways in which the forms of books are not just transparent vessels of the words that they carry," noted Dr. Kevin Donovan, associate professor of English, "but have connections with all kinds of significant elements of a culture that generate meaning and with which literary texts function. It connects literature to history, reading, economics—who could afford what kind of book, who was buying what kind of book—with various kinds of sociological history."

"Books have a ritual and ceremonial existence and a sociological existence," echoed Dr. Alan Boehm, librarian, special collections. "What I mean by that is the actual material nature of the book—the design and manufacturing. People use books and printed materials in certain ways, so they acquire a significance. If you're a literary critic or cultural historian, you begin to look at the book and ask, 'How does the material and presence of the book resonate in the culture?'"

Did the typesetter or the scribe—and not the author—create variances in the text? How does one distinguish between the textual variances created by the former two as opposed to the latter? Donovan posed. Is an appreciation for the book and the printed page nurtured in the lower grades? Janet Higgins, art professor, says yes, she believes there is still a magic about the book and its creation.

> "There is a special magic about being able to take your thoughts and put them into some sort of printed form and to assemble them into a form we call print."
>
> *Janet Higgins*

"There is a special magic about being able to take your thoughts and put them into some sort of printed form and to assemble them into a form we call print," she said. Higgins believes there is still a preference in "this immediate process with lots of high touch" as opposed to high tech—the "coolness and removedness of the computer."

"Certainly the computer has its place," she said. "Many of my students in my book arts class generate their own text on computers, then turn them into hand-bound books. But it's even more fun when you see that piece of type sink into the paper and see the surface with that ink on the paper."

"It's interesting to look at books that were considered to have high literary merit, then were published as cheap paperbacks," Donovan said. "The reverse is also true. We have taken the Gothic novel of the 18th century, which was produced cheaply, and have canonized it. ... Shakespeare's the classic case of one age's popular writer becoming another age's high art. About half the plays were published during his lifetime and were unauthorized printings. Those kinds of single-play editions, often called play quartos, were regarded as the cheap paperback of the day."

Higgins alluded to the visual aspects of a book—the illustrations—and pointed to a little plastic book with a view finder among an eclectic collection of printed works lying on a table. The plastic book allowed the reader to view slides while reading.

"Why do books have to be text-heavy things—why not more joy, humor, didactic quality?"

Even though he thinks the computer is yet another book form, Boehm doesn't believe the traditional book will die. "Books are wonderful pieces of technology," he said. "You print copies and distribute them. Digital technology is a much more haphazard procedure ... a major computer crash and it's gone."

Donovan agrees. "I'm not sure the electronic medium will allow the kind of recursive movement—to go back a few pages and review, to go back and look again. I'm not sure the e-book will facilitate that ease of movement. ... Reading an e-book is like kissing a girl through a plate-glass window."

Gore Center exhibits political history

By Lisa L. Rollins

The more things—including technology—change, the more they stay the same, and political campaigning is no exception, says Dr. Lisa Pruitt, director of MTSU's Albert Gore Sr. Research Center.

"Getting out and meeting people—shaking hands, kissing babies—continues to be an essential part of political campaigning, as it has been for 200 years," observes Pruitt. And just as baby-kissing and hand-shaking have been mainstays of political pitching, so have the candidates' choices of campaign materials, much of which has "continued to be colorful, even flashy" throughout the years.

In homage to campaign materials such as these, the Gore Center presented "From Stumps to Web Sites: A History of Political Campaigning in Tennessee," an exhibit of campaign collectibles and memorabilia featuring campaign materials from Andrew Jackson's day to the present.

"We are aiming for an exhibit with high visual interest; there's lots of color and a variety of shapes and sizes that are fun to look at," she adds. "But on a more academic note, we also wanted to show the use of visual imagery as a campaign tool that has developed over time."

About one-fourth of the exhibit's display items were permanent parts of the Gore Center's collections, including materials from the campaigns of John Jay Hooker, Albert Gore Sr., former Gov. Buford Ellington, State Rep. Jim Cummings, one-time Nashville Mayor Bill Boner and ex-Congressman Jim Cooper. Also, many of the exhibit's regional political campaign collectibles are part of the center's permanent Walter King Hoover Collection.

Additional exhibit materials are on loan from collectors such as Dr. Jim Brooks, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and Mr. Johnny Hayes, Gore 2000 state finance chairman.

Also, Pruitt says, other pieces in the exhibit are loans or donations from the Democratic and Republican parties as well as current and former U.S., state, and local politicians, including Sen. Bill Frist and Mary Scales, the first African-American female to be elected to the Murfreesboro City Council.

> "We are aiming for an exhibit with high visual interest; there's lots of color and a variety of shapes and sizes that are fun to look at," she adds. "But on a more academic note, we also wanted to show the use of visual imagery as a campaign tool that has developed over time."
>
> *Lisa Pruitt*

The exhibit featured 13 panels and two display cases of political campaign materials, both familiar and obscure, including materials from John Jay Hooker's numerous political campaigns, a black-and-white cardboard fan commemorating the women's suffrage movement (circa 1920), a 1970 "Tex Ritter for U.S. Senate" poster, and even an "Anna Belle for Governor" button. Anna Belle, sister of one-time Gov. Frank G. Clement, is believed to have ran ran for governor in the 1960s, but a definitive date was not available.

A reception for "From Stumps to Web Sites" was held 1-4 p.m. Oct. 16 at the center. During this time visitors participated in a straw poll for the then-upcoming presidential election. Votes were deposited in a vintage voting box that was originally used in the state's 18th district, Henderson County.

"Ultimately," says Pruitt, of the exhibit, "we want to educate people about a part of political history, but we also want them to have fun."

Moreover, those who stopped by the center during the "From Stumps to Web Sites" showing also took in a compiled audiotape of political advertisements from yesteryear, thanks to the Gore Center's archives and the Center for Popular Music, which loaned pieces of vintage sheet music to the exhibit.

Among the political ads heard, says Nancy Morgan, a history graduate teaching assistant assigned to the Gore Center, will be the "Happy Pappy Clementine" spot, which is believed to have aired in 1966 when Clement ran in the Democratic senate race against Gore Sr. (Note: Clement lost the senate bid, but did win the governor's race in 1952 and again in 1962.)

Chair endowment tops $1 million

By Tom Tozer

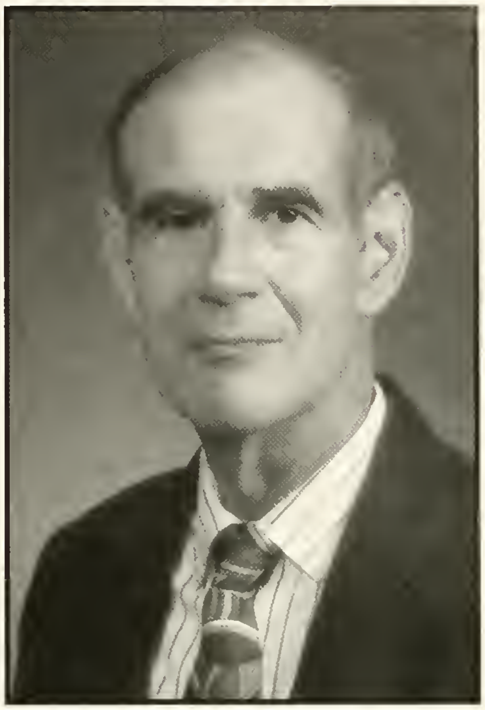
For the first time in the history of MTSU, an endowment for a professional position, provided entirely from private giving, has surpassed $1 million.

The Tommy T. Martin Chair of Insurance, founded by friends and alumni in 1980-1981 in honor of insurance giant Tommy Martin, has a primary endowment of $735,000. It also has $250,000 in endowed scholarship accounts and $30,000 in another endowed account.

Martin, a highly successful underwriter with MONY for nearly 60 years, passed away last March at age 86.

"Tripping over the $1 million mark in the endowment accounts is a significant milestone in the history of the Chair of Insurance," said Dr. Ken Hollman, chairholder. "It marks the first time in the history of the university that the endowment for a professional position has grown to a $1 million level solely with private funds. Our goal is to raise the endowment to $1,250,000 by the year 2005." Hollman is the only holder of the Martin Chair since its inception.

"In order for the Chair to exist in perpetuity, sufficient funds must be available for investment purposes to allow retention of the principal and the use of the interest for the program," he added.


Ken Hollman, holder of Tommy T. Martin Chair of Insurance

The interest from the main endowment account is used to cover operating expenses of the Chair of Insurance, he explained, while interest from the endowment scholarship accounts is used solely for those purposes indicated. What does all of that have to do with turning out a great "product," in this case, qualified graduates? In 1999-2000, 43 students earned scholarships through the program. Since the chair has been established, a total of 226 students have earned 455 scholarships valued at more than $300,000.

These are the insurance and finance superstars who are landing the internships and gaining valuable work experience related to their career objectives—while earning college credit, Hollman noted. These are future bank presidents, insurance leaders, market investors and financial analysts, among others.

"In the spring of 2000, 10 students held internships and seven more students were summer interns," he said. "A total of 260 students have now finished internships. Most of the interns have worked in research, underwriting, or claims adjusting jobs with an insurance company, but some have worked in sales positions. Many internship students have accepted full-time positions with their intern sponsor upon graduation. The Chair strives to provide adequate background and training for those students who wish to sit for the qualification examinations for agents' and brokers' licenses or for the professional designations. It also endeavors to stimulate university-wide interest in insurance."

Hollman's colleagues regard him as a tireless worker who spends seemingly every waking hour in his office discovering or creating newer opportunities for his students. His work with students has paid off in the form of national recognition for individual scholars as well as for the Omega Chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma (GIS), the national scholastic insurance fraternity, which was chartered in 1984.

As of last spring, the chapter has 60 members and has won 43 national awards, second only to one other chapter in the country. Omega chapter has twice been voted "Most Outstanding Chapter" in the nation, and specific members have in five different years been selected for the Warren L. Weeks Award as the "Most Outstanding Student" among GIS chapters.

Hollman is quick to share the credit, acknowledging the work and contributions of Dr. Emily Norman-Zietz, who also teaches insurance courses, as well as other colleagues in the department of Economics and Finance, "who work closely [with us] in the instructional phase of the insurance program."

Recently voted the "Most Outstanding Professor" in the College of Business (along with Dr. Terry Ward, Accounting), presented by the COB Business Advisory Council, Hollman has also received the Outstanding Researcher Award (1998) and the Outstanding Public Service Award (1999).

Professor edits literary journal devoted to Tennessee Williams

By Lisa L. Rollins

Dr. Robert Bray, professor of English, is one of MTSU's better-kept secrets. But thanks to the growing acclaim of *The Tennessee Williams Annual Review*, a journal Bray edits, his reputation as one of the leading authorities on the author-playwright is gaining widespread recognition.

In addition to editing the journal, which is now in its third year, Bray serves as the program chair for the Annual Tennessee Williams Literary Festival, which attracts more than 7,000 participants to New Orleans each March.

Dr. Bill Connelly, chair of English, says Bray's work on the festival is a year-round responsibility that he undertakes in addition to his teaching duties at MTSU and frequent requests to serve as a guest speaker on Williams.

"Besides being invited to speak recently at Marquette University and the University of Illinois recently, [Bray was] invited to speak [in January] at the Dallas Theatre Center's production of 'Night of the Iguana,'" notes Connelly of Bray's dedication to Williams and his literary works.

As for Bray, whose annual journal about Williams is the only scholarly publication dedicated to the writer, he says he discovered Williams' works hit home, so to speak, when he was an undergraduate at the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

"I first became exposed to Williams as an undergraduate," he explains. "I had read 'The Glass Menagerie' in a sophomore survey class and then decided to do an independent studies course on TW's drama when I was a junior.

"Since I had been born in the Mississippi Delta, lived for a time in New Orleans, and gone to grad school at Ole Miss," he adds, "I felt as though I had actually known some of the characters in the plays."

Subsequently, Bray later completed his dissertation on Williams and taught his works in Brazil while on a Fulbright Scholarship in 1985.

"My students' enthusiastic reception of his works there made me realize the universality of his appeal," adds Bray, who now teaches a graduate seminar on Williams at MTSU.

"Dr. Bray is good friends with TW's brother, Dakin Williams, and always invites him to speak to his graduate seminars and then hosts a reception for Dakin and the students at his home, where a lot of us have met and talked to him about his famous brother," says Connelly. "This is the sort of 'a little something extra' that Dr. Bray always brings to his teaching that is so valuable for graduate students, in particular."

Moreover, regarding the annual review of Williams' works, one recent journal features the never-before-printed last play that Williams is known to have penned, *The One Exception*, which was dated January 1983 by its author.

"Williams is unique from other playwrights because of the lyrical power of his language," observes Bray. "He is also the strongest voice for those alienated and tortured souls who must use their poetic imagination to compensate for their woeful existence."

Center reaches out to teachers, kids

By Tom Tozer

If ever there was an example of cooperative education, plain and simple, it is MTSU's Center for Economic Education (CEE) and its outreach to area schools. The Center's focus, as well as the energy and enthusiasm of Maria Edlin, CEE assistant director, is targeted at helping K-12 teachers teach economics education to their students.

That task is done through creative workshops for teachers, the Stock Market Game, a new multimedia teaching tool called Virtual Economics, newsletters, satellite programs and whatever else is available, affordable and works.

Edlin's job is to seek out new material from publishers around the country and tailor programs around it, both for teachers and students. She also tries to shake dollars loose from business and industry to help defray the cost of materials and equipment. With guidance from CEE Director Dr. Richard Hannah, professor of Economics and Finance, Edlin is truly the Center's fund-raiser and fun-raiser. Recently, during the Academy for Teachers of the Gifted, the Center sponsored a quiz bowl and also presented students with the Stock Market Game, where they could sit at a computer and conduct trading via the Internet.

"I've actually seen 4th-graders playing the Stock Market Game," Edlin said. "I had a parent one time tell me that her son was at that age when he just never talked. He started playing the Stock Market Game, and 'that's all we talk about anymore. Thanks!'"

> "We want students to know that economics isn't just one of those classes to be dreaded, but rather it is an integral part of their lives in almost everything they do. I think once they see just how much economics affects them, they'll be able to use those disciplines to get where they want to go."
>
> *Maria Edlin*

Edlin is always looking ahead and thinking of new ideas. "There's a curriculum called 'Wallet Wisdom' that we're going to use to do a prom night," she said. "It'll be a virtual prom. We'll bring in some actual dresses and some tuxedo samples. We'll bring in menus and let students choose what they're going to eat. We'll discuss transportation, and we'll make a prom budget using cost/benefit analysis and things like that. If they decide to have dinner at the Parthenon rather than McDonald's, then they may say, 'Well, since I'm spending more on my dinner, I guess I'll have to drive to the prom instead of rent a helicopter.'"

Edlin says she plans from three to four workshops a semester based on available curriculum for various grade levels. While she may lead a session, she also looks for good material and tires to match it with qualified presenters. She organizes the workshops, finds workshop space and handles all the details that enable her to pull off a smooth-running event.

"When thinking of workshop ideas, I also pay attention to current events," she noted. "I check out web sites in our area to see if there is something needed—like the workshop on grant writing, which is our most popular one because it means money for the classroom. If teachers know how to write a grant proposal and know what grants are available ... I always have a massive waiting list for that one."

The economics curriculum is getting better and better all the time, Edlin said, adding she plans months in advance and starts by attending conferences to see available ideas and materials. The National Council of Economic Education and several state councils put out catalogs and are helpful for ideas.

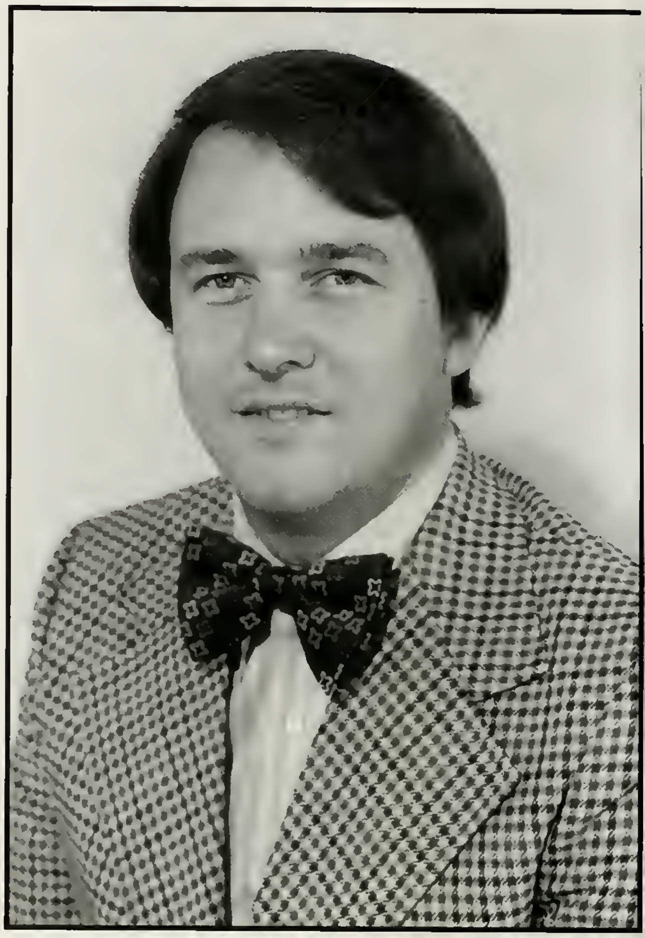
"The founding directors were elected to proceed with the formation of Tennessee Council of Economic Education," Edlin said.

Edlin added that once the council is established, "there's so much more the Center can do through our own council." Possibilities include writing curriculum and training teachers to be workshop leaders.

"At the higher grades, we want students to know that economics isn't just one of those classes to be dreaded, but rather it is an integral part of their lives in almost everything they do. I think once they see just how much economics affects them, they'll be able to use those disciplines to get where they want to go."

Cliff Gillespie, voice of TRAM, says

By Courtney Huckabay



"Hello."

"Thanks for calling TRAM."

"Listen carefully to the menu options which follow..."

These are the words heard by thousands of students every year at registration time. Who is the man behind that unforgettable voice that can crush one's hopes of getting into the class they've waited for all semester or brighten a day with the simple words, "you are enrolled in"? To access this information, press one - just kidding.

George C. Gillespie, better known as Cliff, is the man behind the voice, and the man who sat behind the big desk. "Mr. MTSU," as many describe him, has left behind a 30-year legacy with admissions and enrollment upon his recent retirement.

Starting out as a student worker in the records office while finishing his undergraduate degree at MTSU in 1970 was the first step in the three-decade career to follow. After taking a full time position in enrollment, Gillespie took on a mission for admissions.

"I had an opportunity to become involved with enrollment. I was a 21-year-old who needed a job and I tried to do it as best as I could," Gillespie said. "I think that's why I kept it so long."

His co-workers and friends would agree.

"He was always good to work for," Gale Pitchford, secretary for Enrollment Management said. "He had an open door policy and was really laid back, so you could talk to him about anything."

"Anytime I needed him to record something, he was always right there with a smile on his face, always cheerful and very willing and professional," Mary Smith, the senior systems analyst in OIT said. "He took his job seriously and wanted to be involved to make the (TRAM) system the best."

Gillespie worked his way up the admissions ladder, filling such positions as assistant director of records, director of records, acting dean of admissions and records, dean of admissions and records, dean of admissions, records and informational systems and associate vice president of enrollment management. Gillespie served on the National Collegiate Athletic Association rules panel, the ACT board of trustees and the American Association of the Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

"Cliff won lots of awards and honors from AACRAO," said wife Gayle. "A lot of those members look up to him nationally. He did so much work on all the committees and boards he was on."

Gillespie started the TRAM registration process in 1993, after finding out about it at a conference. An implementation committee was formed and they asked him to do the recordings because he had previous experience in announcing for the Walking Horse Celebration and other shows, and they wanted someone who would be around for a long time.

The implementation of TRAM was a major improvement over the way students registered previously - by waiting in mile-long lines outside the Murphy Center.

"I think it'll (TRAM) be here a long time because it's so simple, students are used to it and it's so convenient," Gillespie predicted. He plans to continue updating the TRAM recordings for as long as he can.

Over the years, Gillespie has made quite a few memories with everyone he's worked with. He said that's what he misses most about not coming into work anymore.

'Goodbye' after more than 30 years

Jim Simpson, while he manages Phillips Bookstore, is "never too busy to talk about Cliff," recalled a fond memory.

"It's got to be about 20 years ago when this happened," Simpson said. "Cliff was real fond of electric trains and he got about eight to 10 of us hooked on them too. Well, during one Christmas break he got permission to use the dance studio in the Murphy Center to run the trains. We laid out hundreds of feet of train track in that studio and it took up about half the room. It got to be about 25 of us, down on our hands and knees, running electric trains with Cliff right there in the middle."

What people mention the most about Gillespie is how devoted he is to MTSU and his true love for the school. He got both his bachelor's and his master's from MTSU and his doctorate from Vanderbilt University. He was speaker of the House and a Kappa Sigma brother. He grew up in Nashville and graduated from Holland Ryan High School so Middle Tennessee has always been home for him and his wife.

This Middle Tennessee pride runs in the family. His oldest son Matthew graduated from MTSU and now works for TSSAA. His daughter Lauren is finishing up her undergraduate degree here and found time to intern for the White House during Clinton's administration. The youngest son, Michael, graduates from Oakland High School this spring and has just accepted a scholarship to attend MTSU.

"He really wants to go back. If it weren't for his illness, he'd be at MTSU for the rest of his life. There is no greater love for an alma mater than the love Cliff Gillespie has for MTSU," Gayle Gillespie said.

"I've known him somewhere in the neighborhood of 31 years and I know that he is one of the few people around here who is MTSU," Simpson said. "He kept things lively around here, he kept us coming into work. He always had input in whatever went on. Much of the success we've had (with enrollment increase) comes from decisions he's made. He's the best recruiter because he's not just an 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. kind of guy. His license plates ought to let you know what kind of person he is. They say GO 2 MTSU."

Interim President R. Eugene Smith gave Gillespie the distinct honor of holding the office of Special Assistant to the President, but he only got to go in for one day. Gillespie retired in December due to the effects of an illness he has been suffering from since 1996. He suffers from a rare type of cancer that effects approximately 100 people in the country, called Carcinoid cancer. Carcinoid cancer effects one's bones and chemotherapy does not help reduce the symptoms.

He was recently recognized at MTSU's retirement reception, but his colleagues didn't need a reception to stir up good things to say about him.

"Cliff is amazing," Smith said. "He even offered to come in after he retired to record phrases for TRAM. He just can't stay away."

"He was never too busy to talk to prospective students and always told them to come back if they ever needed help. And they did come back," Victory said. "Even though he's threatened several times to send me out to the closet and to make it my office, I have to say that he's more like a father or a member of my family," Victory said. "He is the person I most respect of everybody I've ever met."

People

Above left: Elisa Fisk
Above: Matthew Starling
Right: Elisa Fisk

Students are the most important part of the university, and the university's mission is to educate students in preparation for the challenges to come. Our time as students at MTSU helps to shape us into the people we are now and will be in the future.

2001

Photo by Matthew Starling

Students in a new media class in the Business and Aerospace Building listen to Robert Kalwinsky's lecture. The course is offered as part of the College of Mass Communication's radio and television program.

Pushing the limits

MTSU enrollment soars to state's second highest

By James Evans

MTSU's student population reached another peak this fall, soaring one more time in enrollment and beating out the University of Memphis for the No. 2 position as the state's largest institution for higher learning.

Because of the continued growth, students returning to MTSU this fall may have noticed that the sidewalks are more crowded and that the classrooms seem a fuller. They are!

High attendance rates the first few weeks of school and new students still finding their way around contribute to some of the congestion. Still, most of the congestion can be attributed to the increase in enrollment and the shortage of full-time faculty.

Enrollment peaked at slightly more than 19, 000 students—about a 2 percent increase from last fall. However, only 10 full-time faculty were hired this year, leaving the university struggling to meet the needs of the growing student body.

Barbara Haskew, vice president for Academic Affairs, estimates that the university is understaffed somewhere between 60 to 70 faculty. However, Haskew said even if "some magic happened" and the university could hire all the needed faculty, there wouldn't be enough space for all of them.

"All of our classrooms are engaged during the day and through the evening," Haskew said, so there is actually no place to put additional faculty if they were here.

To combat the shortage of professors and classroom space, university officials are looking for alternative ways to offer additional classes for students.

The use of adjunct professors is one way the university is stretching its resources. There are also plans to encourage students to take online courses, even if the students are local. This way, Haskew said, the university can offer more courses without tying up classroom space.

MTSU's current enrollment makes it the second largest university in Tennessee behind the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Traditionally, the University of Memphis beats MTSU in enrollment. However, enrollment at Memphis was just short of 19,000 students during the fall, the time when state comparisons are made.

Photos by Elisa Fisk

Left: New students learn more about campus opportunities during a session of CUSTOMS.

Below: Students try out one of the activities at the President's Picnic, an annual event that takes place early in the fall semester.

Photo by Matthew Starling

History professor Rebecca Conard gives a lecture to her students in a Peck Hall classroom.

Seniors and

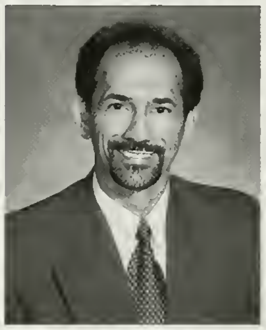
Mother, cancer

Cassandra Adams ~ Social Work.

Natalie Adcock ~ Special Education

Adeyinka Alalade ~ Computer Information Systems.

Ibrahim Alasadi ~ Computer Information Systems.



Rachel Alexander ~ Interdisciplinary Studies

Jerome Allen ~ Interdisciplinary Studies

April Andrews ~ Psychology

Jennifer Arendall ~ Health Education

Heather Baker ~ Elementary Education

Rebecca Baker ~ Biology

Terrace Banks ~ Comp. Info. Systems

Jacqueline Banniza ~ Comm. Disorders

Alla Baranova ~ Accounting

Chinatte Baugh ~ Office Management

Graduate Students

survivor, wins honor

Cindy Maule-Trail, a graduate student in the department of Sociology and Anthropology, was named the first-ever recipient of the U.S. Oncology Scholarship, a $5,000 award funded by the Patient Advocate Foundation of Newport News, Va.

She received her scholarship in Washington, D.C. and addressed the Patient Congress while she was there.

This mother of seven is originally from Vancouver, Wash. Cindy's emphasis of study is domestic violence.

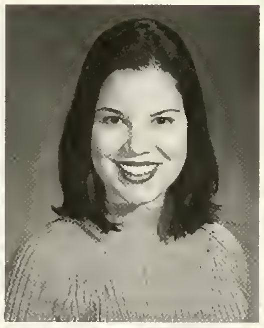
A veteran of the US. Army, a three-time cancer survivor, and a one-time victim of mental and physical abuse, Cindy knows about overcoming adversity. Recently, her husband was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

"I am a firm believer in annual medical check-ups for both males and females, and I always stress the importance of self-examination," she says.

Alicia Beasley ~ Physical Education

Amy Bell ~ Animal Science

Tabitha Bell ~ Textiles/ Merch.



Robert Bellamy ~ Aerospace

Cheryl Bevill ~ Spanish

Amy Boatman ~ Education

Adraine Bond ~ Political Science

Shanesha Boyd ~ Accounting

Selina Bradley ~ Math

Julie Braxton ~ Elementary Education

Atesia Bray ~ English

Seniors and

Brandi Brenese ~ Fashion Merchandising

Bethany Brent ~

Chantrelle Brimmer ~ Social Work

Duvale Browning ~ Political Science

Fred Buckley ~ Finance

Melody Haley Buckley ~ Psychology

Panayiota Bulmer ~ Psychology

Susan Burns ~ Speech/ Theatre

Richard Butler ~ History

John Castleman ~ Criminal Justice Administration

Kristofer Chadwick ~ Computer Information Systems

'Believe in yourself' is her

Du-Ha Kim Nguyen, "Little Angel," has spend the past five years overcoming language and cultural barriers but never giving up. This senior is majoring in computer engineering technology and math education.

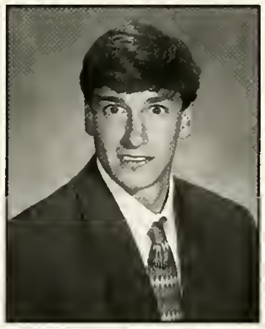
Du-Ha came to America from South Vietnam five years ago and has worked hard to overcome the language barrier, and her record is a testament to her tenacity. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, Tau Alpha Pi National Honor Society, the National Dean's List, and the Golden Key National Honor Society. She is listed in Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges, All-American Scholar Collegiate and is a National Science Foundation Scholar.

"If anyone asked me how I have made it up to this point, I would say, believe in yourself," she says. During her first two years in America, Du-Ha said she almost gave up. But determination and encouragement from others kept her going. In addition to her academic work, Du-Ha volunteers time for community service.

"All the community work helps me a lot to understand people...get out all the stresses..and believe in myself," she said.

Du-Ha's paretns, Nhien V. Nguyen and Thi Kim La, reside in Nashville

Graduate Students



Cameron Chaney ~ Radio/ TV Production

Amy Clark ~ Computer Science

Dimitra Clement ~ Advertising

Shanna Cobble ~ Microbiology

Beth Coleman ~ Public Administration

Alan Collins ~ Management

Jason Conchin ~ Physical Education

Cameron Cooley ~ Biology

guidepost

Karla Costa ~ Exercise Science

Toya Covington ~ Accounting

Kelly Cox ~ Radio/ TV Production

Melissa Crossley ~ Social Work

Jennifer Crownover ~ Interdisciplinary Studies

LaTresa Cunningham ~

Seniors and

Tuck taps into the

Thurman Tucker, known to the campus as Tuck, is a person of many ventures. A graduate of the RIM program and a graduate student in marketing, Tuck is a true entrepreneur.

Tuck held weekly "jams" at local establishments, in addition to parties and concerts on campus. He is now proprieter of a a record store which specializes in underground music.

"The main reason I opened the store was because I knew Murfreesboro needed an underground store where people can come and get the underground releases from Nashville, Michigan, Chicago and LA," he said.

In addition to hip-hop and R7B, the store will carry independent country, rock, alternative, reggae and gospel artists.

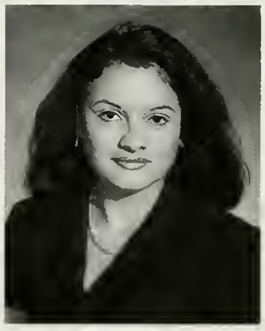
Music Jams is not limited to selling music, but customers will find Africa products and apparel. He will also offer a service pressing CDs and making posters.

Tuck credits MTSU and the Murfreesboro community for all the support they've shown in the past and he looks forward to support in the future with his first-ever African-American-owned record store.

Marsha Dalton ~ Spanish

Jada Davis ~ Social Work

Sandra Del Campo ~ Business Administration

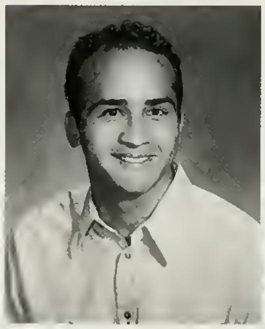


LaResha Derrick ~ Finance

Mario Diaz ~ Recording Industry

Breck Douglas ~

Andrew Duncan ~ Music/ Piano



Rachel Duncan ~ Ed Leader

Nola Dutoit ~ Social Work

Elizabeth Edmondson ~ Social Work

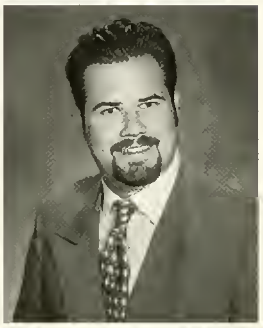
Carlita Elder ~ Education

Graduate Students

underground

Rebecca England ~ Elementary Education

Jennifer Enss ~ English

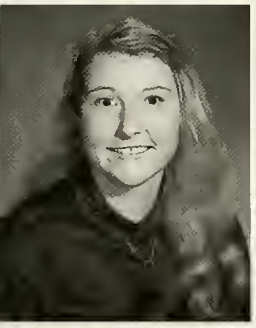


Dana Fletcher ~ Accounting

Jeremy Floyd ~ Philosophy/ English

Victoria Forrest ~ Recreational Therapy

Justin Foster ~ Finance



Karen Foster ~ Chemistry

Rhonda Franklin ~ Interdisciplinary Studies

Gloria Frazier ~ Elementary Education

Sonia Fuentes ~ Office Management

Heather Fullington ~ Interior Design

Adam Gamble ~ Management

Barbara Gavel ~

Vickie Gibson ~ Journalism

Seniors and

Angela Gleason ~ Aerospace

Zack Glouser ~ Secondary Education

Michael Gooch ~ Nursing

Diane Grandstaff ~ Business Administration

Melissa Green ~ Communication Disorders

Misti Grooms ~ Health Education

Helen Grubbs ~ Interdisciplinary Studies

Keesha Haehl ~ Mass Communications

Laciana Hall ~ Math

Elizabeth Hancock ~ Finance

Karin Hardison ~ Interdisciplinary Studies

Andrew Hawkins ~ Criminal Justice Administration

Krista Hawkins ~ Interdisciplinary Studies

Lorenzo Hawkins ~ Business Management

He enjoys

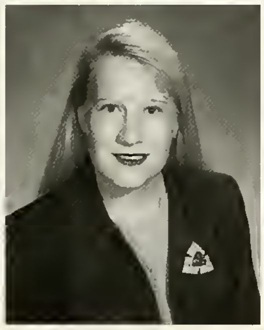
Leon Stancliff is cut from a different cloth. This 50-year-old graduate student at MTSU, who is working on his M.A. degree in historic site management, is a re-enactor.

He steps into another time period and assumes the personna of an early Tennessee settler between 1756 and 1836

"I teach high school history in juvenile deterntion facilities, and I have found this to be an excellent learning tool," he says.

When he was working on his undergraduate degree in the museum studies program, Stancliff spent a 6-month internship at Connonsburgh Village in Murfreesboro, where he re-enacted a blacksmith and was a tour guide. "I was having more

Graduate Students



Sarah Hawkins ~ Marketing

Priscilla Hayen ~ Office Management

Ryan Hemby ~ Computer Information Systems

Yolanda Henderson ~ Social Work

Carrie Herrington ~ Graphic Communication

Meredith Anne S. Higgs ~ Administration/ Super

Debra Hileman ~ Elementary Education

Karyn Hill ~ Accounting

being a re-enactor

fun that the law allowed. I realized this is what I enjoyed doing," he said.

He makes all his own clothes, toos, weapons, knives and tents.

Randall Hill ~ Psychology

Lynne Hinger ~ Geographic Techniques

Karen Hoffman ~ Fashion Merchandising

Seniors and

Wanda Holt ~ Criminal Justice Administration

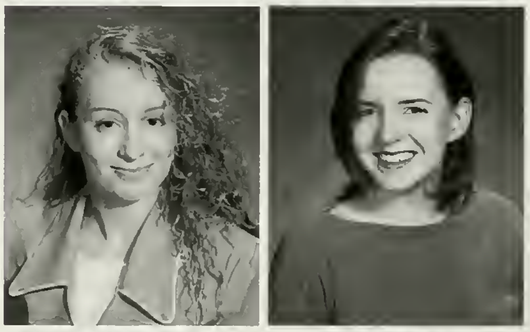
Jana Houston ~ Interdisciplinary Studies

Elizabeth Howe ~ Recording Industry

Rachel Howell ~ Music Business

Jill Jackson ~ Biology

Jennifer Janet ~ Graphic Communications



Bradley Johnson ~ Biology

Caren Johnson ~

Chadwick Jones ~ Agricultural Business

Jennifer Jones ~ Accounting

Terri Jones ~ Psychology

Laura Joyce ~ Office Management

Nicole Kirk ~ Psychology

Talmadge Kirkland ~

This lady is a

LaTrina Mims, a junior, and president of the National Panhellenic Council, was recently named 'Student Leader of the Year.'

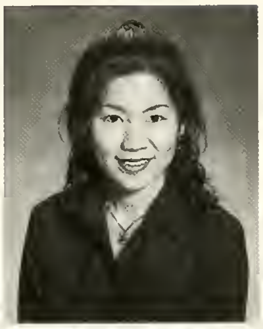
During her tenure, the Council has donated items to the Salvation Army, sponsored children for a Panhellenic Christmas, and given $500 to two MTSU students for the Africa study abroad trip.

Mims is also chaplain and fund-raising chair for Alpha Kappa Alapha Sorority.

A resident of Memphis, her parents are Ms. Dorothy Bradley and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Mims.

Graduate Students

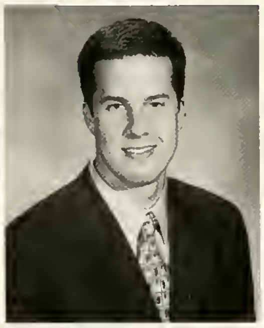
real leader

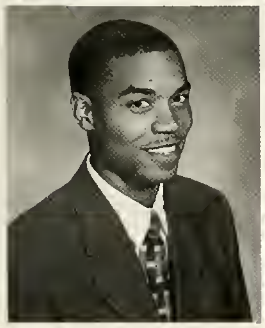


Hina Komatsu ~ Psychology

Michael LaBo ~ Recording Industry

Amy Lackey ~ Administration/ Super





Walter Lackey ~ History

Dorothy Ladd ~ English

Brian Lee ~ Mass Communications

Denise Leggett ~ Accounting

Kyron Leslie ~ Music Business

Tomicka Lester ~ Computer Information Systems

Kristine Lilja-King ~ History/ Anthropology

Walter Litaker, Jr. ~ History

Seniors and

Robert Lockhart ~ Comp. Info. Systems

Shonna Longie ~ Physical Education

Verbia Lovelace ~ Criminal Justice Administration

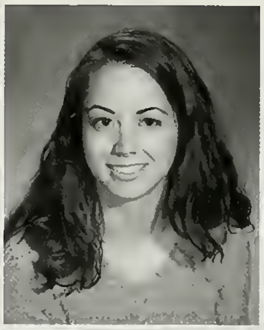
Christy Lowe ~ Elementary Education

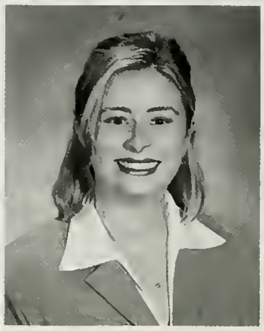
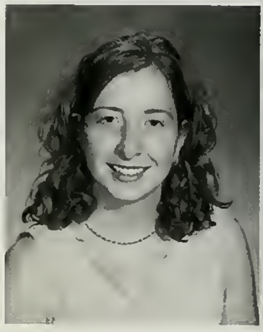
Charles Lowery ~ Education

Tracey Ludyjan ~ Biology

Stacey Mangrum ~ Music

Angelique Martinez ~ Psychology



Brooks May ~ Biology

Erica Mayo ~ Computer Information Systems

Alkesha McCollum ~ Business Finance

Evans is first three-

James Evans, 23, was raised in rural Pegram, Tenn. as the middle child of three brothers.

James attended Harpeth High School in Kingston Springs, Tenn., and had no aspirations of going to a four-year college until his music instructor convinced him to try-out for a percussion scholarship at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tenn. He did get a scholarship, but turned it down to study business instead of music.

A year later, James found himself in Murfreesboro, attending MTSU and studying journalism while working as a staff writer at the student newspaper *Sidelines*. James went on to become news editor, features editor and specialsections editor before being named managing editor. He continued in that position for three more semesters.

During this time, James interned at the *Nashville Business Journal* and later became a regular free-lancer. While a junior, James left *Sidelines* to become a reporter at NBJ, but left after a few months to focus on his degree.

He returned to *Sidelines* and was elected Editor in Chief beginning in fall 2000. He was re-elected for the spring and summer 2001 semesters and became the first student in the history of MTSU to be elected for three terms as editor in chief.

Graduate Students

Mark McDaniel ~ Finance

Crystal McGee ~ Psychology

Myra McGhee ~ Nursing

Randi McNeil ~ Computer Engineering

Dorothy Miller ~ Marketing

Leslia Miller ~ Exercise Science

Rachel Miller ~ Aerospace

Laekshea Mims ~ Social Work

time editor

James is graduating in August 2001 with a journalism degree with minors in political science and business administration. He hopes to find work locally as a beat reporter at a newspaper and then move where his career takes him.

Cheryl Mistretta ~ Interdisciplinary Studies

Andrea Mize ~ Political Science

Chirstopher Montaque ~ Computer Science

Demetriss Moore ~

Melanie Moore ~ Finance

Maggie Morgan ~ Theatre

Seniors and

A promise made

Erica Neely ~ Psychology

Rhonda Neitzel ~ Athletic Training

Elisabeth Nemeth ~ Recreational Therapy

She promisted her mother she wouldn't quit school. That's what Carol Washington called "the primary driving force that kept me in school."

Three months after that promise, Carol's mom passed away. The next month, she graduated from Motlow State Community College. In spite of being a divorced mother herself, raising a daughter, losing her son, and undergoing major surgery, Carol earned her undergraduate degree last May in university studies from MTSU.

Along the way, Carol also made the startling discovery that she is dyslexic. Today Carol is enrolled in graduate school in art therapy, and her daughter is in her last year of undergraduate school.

"I believe I have been so successful because of my faith in God, the support of my extended family, children, and friends," she says. Carol works as a graduate assistant in the Adult Services Center.

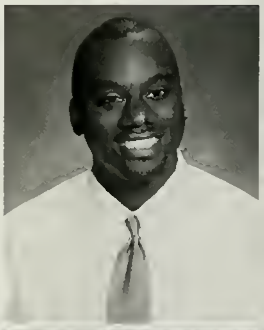
Off campus, she manages a domestic violence porgram called H.E.A.T., which is aprt of Life Mangement services. After getting her master's degree, Carol says she "plans to incorporate art therapy for healing and detection of possible future abusers into the H.E.A.T. curriculum.

Ilaine Newby ~ Accounting

Laurel Newman ~ Marketing

Gregory Noe ~ Aerospace

Paul Norman ~



James Norton ~ Recording Industry

Elizabeth Odom ~ Interdisciplinary Studies

Filbert Ojok ~ Interdisciplinary Studies

Andrew Orourke ~ Recording Industry

Graduate Students

is kept

Adesola Osijo ~ Computer Information Systems

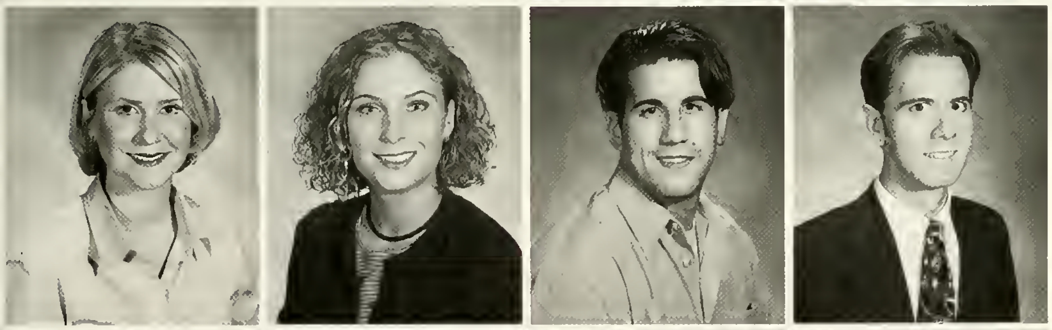
Tracey Owens ~ Fashion Merchandising

Wendy Owens ~ Mass Communications

Amy Parker ~ English

Grover Dale Parker ~ Business Administration

Erin Patterson ~ Elementary Education



Tracy Patterson ~ Accounting

Heather Payne ~ Fashion Merchandising

Alex L. Perez-Medina ~ Recording Industry

Alan Pfeil ~ Recording Industry

Anna Phillips ~ Accounting

Joel Pinto ~ Aerospace

Rhett Plant ~ Aerospace

William Plunkett ~ Elementary Education

Seniors and

Alonda Pollins ~ Biology

Jessica Porter ~ Comp. Information Systems

Edward Price ~

Maria Ramirez ~ Social Work

Jon Randolph ~ Business Administration

Pamela Randolph ~ Finance

Benjamin Rankin ~ Computer Science

John Ray ~ Accounting

Reynada Reed ~ Recording Industry

Timothy Reeves ~ Recording Industry

Danah Renner ~ Finance

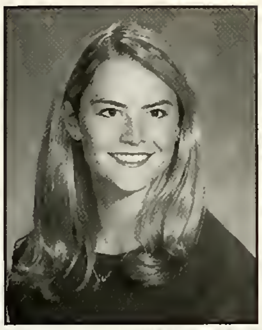
Janice Richardson ~ Business Education

Lisa Roberts ~ Criminal Justice Administration

Nakisha Roddy ~ Office Management

She's headed

Graduate Students



Kelly Rogers ~ Recording Industry

Camille Roper ~ Marketing

Nancy Ruffner ~ Accounting

Margaret-Gail Ruhl ~

Iffath Sajid ~ Accounting

Brain Saladin ~ Education

Joni Saloom ~ English

Brandy Sue Sanders ~

for the nationals

Born in Lugansk, Ukraine, Maya Nitis moved to the United States when she was 12. She says adjusting to the culture and language was the greatest challenge she ever faced.

A political science and literature major, she says she has learned to love language. Maya is poetry editor of the student magazine "Collage." She has also received a writing award. Maya says she is also fascinated by our legal system, which is why she has participated in the nationally ranked Mock Trial program for the past two years.

She has received four "Outstanding Attorney" awards in various competitions across the country. This year her Mock Trail team earned second place at the regional competition, which qualified MTSU for the national tournament in Des Moines -- an achievement that has been realized every year since the Mock Trial program began.

Maya's mother, Irene Ponarovsky, lives in Nashville; her father, Felix Nitis, resides in Chicago.

Emily Sanders ~ Marketing

James Sandman ~ Computer Information Systems

Ronald Scott ~ English

Seniors and Organizations

Sherry Scott ~

Maurya Shaughnessy ~ Recording Industry

Margie Shelton ~

Marney Sherrill ~ Computer Information Systems

Daniel Shilstat ~ Computer Science

Rosa Silcox ~ Marketing

Bryan Simpson ~ Computer Engineering

Dana Smith ~ Marketing

Donte Smith ~ Animal Science

Jacqueline Smith ~

Kimberly Smith ~ Interdisciplinary Studies

Lori Smith ~ Office Management

Lori Smith ~ Interior Design

Molly Smith ~ Recording Industry

Graduate Students

matter to her

Jessica Porter entered MTSU in the fall of 1997 as a presidential scholar and a James M. Buchanan Scholar, along with having received a McDonald's Scholarship and the Ingram Leadership Award. Jessica later received a scholarship from the Nashville Professional Chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals.

A computer information systems major, Jessica is involved with Gamma Beta Phi Society, the Hampton Society, the Association of Information Technology Professionals and Golden Key International Honour Society, Phi Kappa Phi and Beta Gamma Sigma.

Jessica is a member of the 129th Army Band in Nashville. She joined the Army Band, and the National Guard, in November 1997.

Jessica is a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Nashville. She participates in both community service activities organized by her church and the collegiate organizations to which she belongs. Jessica currently holds a blue belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Originally from Minnesota, Jessica has lived in La Vergne for more than 10 years. Jessica's mother, Teri Salisbury, currently resides in Alpharetta, Georgia. Her father, Kerry Trosdahl, makes his home in Rockvale.

Kendra Smotherman ~ Mass Communications

Rochelle Snelling ~ Business Education

Christopher Solomon ~ Advertising

Carla Spann ~ Accounting

Sloane Spencer ~ Marketing

Stacey Spencer ~ Marketing

Austin Springer ~ Comp. Information Systems

Kimberly Springer ~ Elementary Education

Tonya Stanton ~ Marketing

Damon Starr ~ Geography

John Stephens ~ Comp. Information Systems

Seniors and

Don Stewart ~ Interdisciplinary Systems

Laurel Elizabeth Stone ~ Liberal Arts

Brian Stuckey ~ Computer Engineering

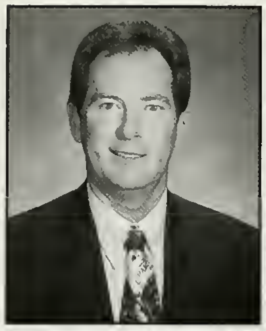
Stephanie Swagler ~ Biology

Jennifer Sykora ~ Education

Chris Taylor ~ Journalism

Stephen Thate ~ Business Administration

Reggie Thomas ~ Mass Communications



Melissa Thompson ~ Special Education

Amy Tison ~

Marie Tubbervile ~ Business Education

Putting the Rowdy in

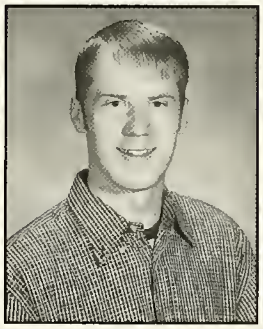
John Norrell has involved himself in the MTSU community since trasferring here from Delta State University. This Business Education major is a member of the Resident Hall Association, advisor to Area Governments in Housin, member of Golden Key International Honour Society, and serves on several university committees, while working as an area coordinator for Housing. This year he helped organize and advise MTSU's Rowdy Raiders who have added a bit of color and excitemento home football games.

In his spare time, John works on community service projects such as the Habitat House built by the Student Affairs Division this spring, the Salvations Army's Angle Tree and canned food drives and walk-a-thons for the American Lung Association and St. Jude's Hospital.

"My favorite thing about MTSU is the way the university has grown and still kept its small school values. In many institutiions, once they reach the size of MTSU the students become numbers and getting help seems to be harder than teaching a freshman how not to proscrastinate. At MTSU, personalized attention is always part of the help," John says.

A May graduate, John is entering MTSU's graduate school in the fall. He is the son of Cathy and Larry Maxwell of Cordova, TN.

Graduate Students



Karen Turner ~ Business

Chrissy Vargas ~ Marketing

Paulina Vega ~ Special Education

Phonesavanh Vongsamphanh ~ Comp. Information Systems

Annie Waggener ~ Textiles

Reagan Wallbaum ~ Radio/ TN Production

Julie Waller ~ Marketing

Roberta Walls ~ Music Business

the Raiders

April Warren ~ Biology

Karen Waters ~ Business Administration

Lakeesha Weathers ~ Biology

Janell Webb ~ English

Galvin Whitefield ~ English

Nicole Whiting ~ Education

Seniors and

Renee Wiggins ~

Jessica Williams ~ Plant & Soil Science

Latrice Williams ~

Sherry Williams ~ Mass Communications

Amanda Wilson ~ Health Education

Rhiannon Wilson ~ Early Childhood Ed.

Brenda Wilson-McDonald ~ Art/ Business

Charla Wolfe ~ Interdisciplinary Studies

Stacey Wood ~ Recording Industry

Zelia Woods ~ Management

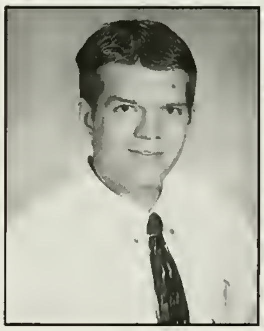
David Wright ~ Art

Sherryl Wright ~

Christopher Yoakum ~ Recording Industry

Cynthia Yoakum ~ Elementary Education

Dana Young ~ Social Work



Graduate Students

MTSU's first Fulbright scholar finds her voice in Spain and its culture

Alysa Cannon, MTSU's first Fulbright scholar, is finding her voice in the study of a different -- and ancient -- culture.

Receiving a bachelor of music with concentration in vocal peformance, Alysa graduated in May 2000 summa cum laude. She is currently studying in Madrid, doing research at the Biblioteca Nacional and taking courses at the Conservatory with Ismael Fernandez de la Cuesta. Her spring 2001 schedule calls for research that will take her to many cities in Spain.

"As with any major event in one's life, it's normal to do much thinking, wondering, planning and projecting before spending a year abroad," Alysa told the MTSU Alumni magazine. "This was the experience of my last months in America before leaving on a grand journey to Spain to live for a year while studying musicology on a Fulbright Scholarship.

"I didn't choose Spain; Spain chose me. For some things in life there are no reasons or excuses. Some call it fate, others, destiny, and still others, God's will."

Alysa said it was when she lived in California that she fell in love with the Spanish language, and it was in a medieval music class that she became fascinated with the country, medieval music, the church and the layers of culture that go along with it.

"I am a singer who's interested in the history of the music as well," she said. "The great thing about medieval music is that it is the foundation of the Western musical practice."

During her junior year, she studied medieval Spanish music in an independent research class with Dr. Stephen Shearon. He encouraged her to try for the Fulbright and helped her with the grant applications. Dr. Charlene Harb and Dr. Christine Isley also helped her in the process.

"I had questions and assumptions about what Spain would be like, how my research would progress, the friends I would make, and the ways I would grow as a person but felt excited and ready to commit myself to a year abroad," she said.

This year she has spent in Spain studying medieval Iberain music, first learning the general history and culture of Spain from the fall of the Roman Empire to the reign of the Catholic kings. Secondly, she familiarized herself with primary sources (archives and monasteries) containing medieval Spanish music. She plans on becoming fluent in Spanish, making professional contacts and establishing long-lasting communication with scholars in her field.

Alysa is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William John Cannon of Ohio. She is one of six children raised in this Catholic family. She funded her own college and living expenses and found time to work in a group home for the mentally and physically disabled. For seven summers, she helped build homes in Appalachian coal-mining towns. Despite many interests, her fascination with music, languages and religions of the world is most compelling.

Freshmen Underc Sopho

Heather Abernathy
James E. Alford Sr.

Sarah Anderson
Martha Anglin

Carrie Atchley
Sarah Rachus

Involvement her

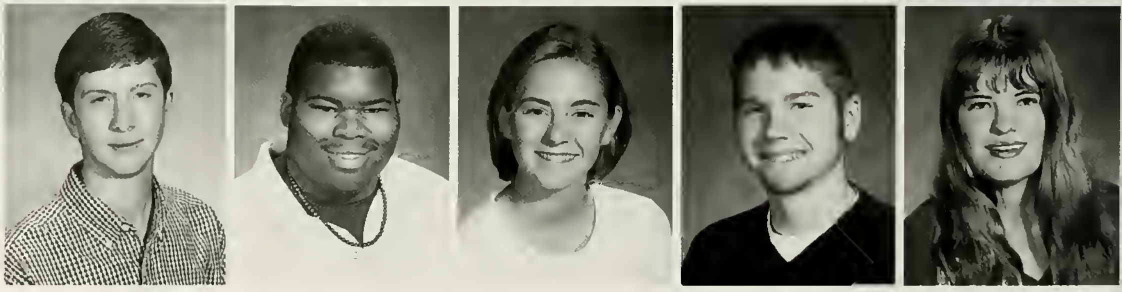
Marketing major Abby Epps takes great pride in her campus involvement, community service and academic achievement. She is recruitment chair for Alpha Omicron Pi, chair of the University Standing Task Force Committee, member of the Student Government Association and secretary of the University Awards Committee.

Since her freshman year, Abby has completed more than 300 hours of community service with such organizations as the Boys and Girls Club, Red Cross and the Up Til Dawn St. Jude Fundraiser. She has a 3.74 grade point average and is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, Tau Omicron, Golden Key and the Honors Student Association.

As a student in the Honors College, she was part of a creative writing and research team that involved 15 Honors students who worked together to write a novel – a project that spanned nearly a year.

Lacey Ballard
Marisa Banas
Kendra Bell
Jason Blair
Leslie Boehms

Alex Bogle
Alfred Brady
Angel Brigman
Thomas Brown III
Laura Buhler



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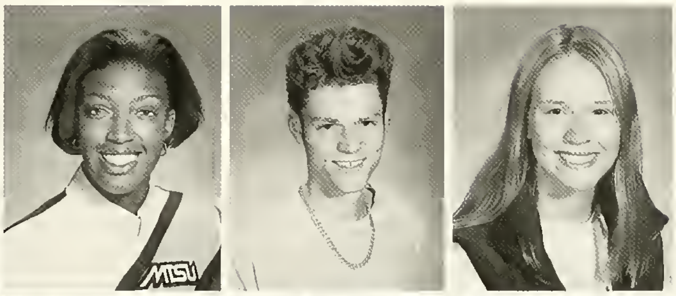
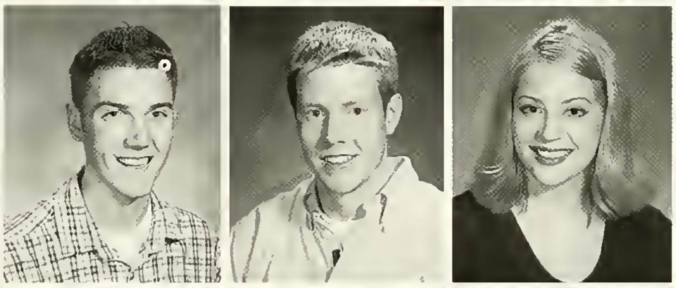
Lassmen Juniors

hallmark

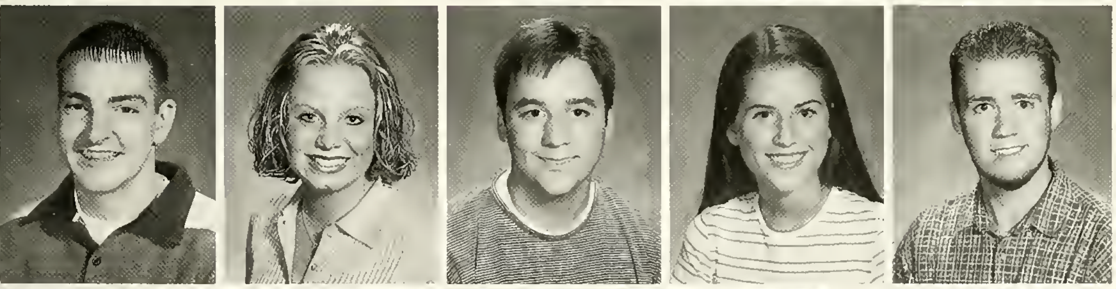


Erica Butts
John Caldwell
Trenee Callen



Joey Campbell
Matthew Carr
Brittany Childers

Jerry Coleman
Joshua Conway
Kevin Cook



Brandon Craddock
Rebecca Davison
Samuel Dickinson
Carrie Doss
Clint Dowda

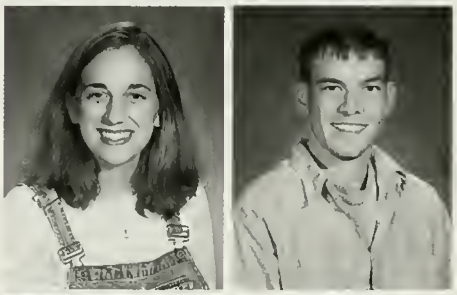
Amy Dunivan
Autumn Emerson
Torrance Esmond
Jennean Farmer
Tekendrea Fayne

Freshmen Sopho Underc

Nick Fischetti
Amy Ford
Charvis Ford
Nicholas Fuller
Tara Garrison

John Gibi
Timmy Gibson
Anastasia Gillian
Jimmy Goss
Stephen Greene

Stephanie Grider
Kevin Hagewood



Russ Hanberry
Hope Harel

Jennifer Hariv
Natosha Haskins

This soldier now a

Matthew Starling is 31 and the youngest of three children in a wonderful family, which is a very important part of his life — shaping who he is as a person and what drives him to be the best he can be. Seeing a variety of cities as a soldier and the son of a preacher has given him a wide variety of experience in life and helped him grow as a person.

His background is in photography, and he loves cultures, learning and seeing new things. Matthew has experience spanning 15 years of professional photojournalism. He has worked in diverse environments, situations and climates — from the triple canopy jungle to the concrete jungle, from the desert to arctic cold and to living with Buddhist monks.

He began taking photographs as a high school sophomore. He worked as a photojournalist at two newspapers before joining the Army in 1990 where he served as an M1A1 tank crewman.

After returning from the Gulf War, he assumed several photojournalist assignments for the military. Upon leaving the military, he worked as a professional photographer before entering MTSU in fall 2000.

hores
Lassmen Juniors

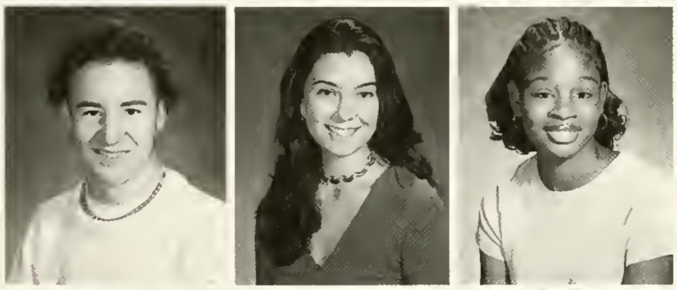
Cindy Hasty
Rachel Holmes
Mikia Housley
Heather Hoyer
Kaivanh Inthavong

Natasha Jackson
Zachary Johnson
Mary Kelton
Gregg Kirren
Lucy Knott

student

Matthew is driven to captivate people with images of emotion, substance and value. He is passionate about his work and his military training has refined his drive, discipline and ability to achieve. I am human, make mistakes but I try and will not quit. I care, I believe and will succeed, he said.

Kristen Lang
Assaleenuch Larpcharoen
Amber Lashbrook



Todd Latia
Katherine Legare
Kashonda Lyons

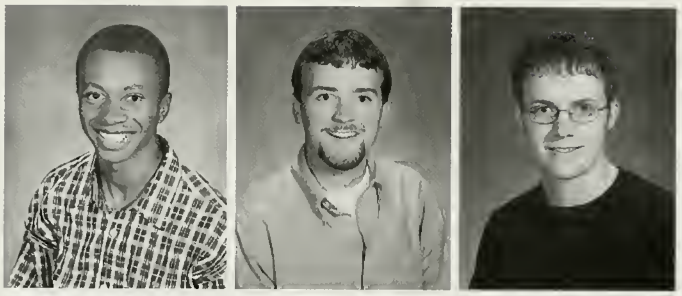
Lorrinda Mabry
Zach Maddux
Brent McAfee

Freshmen

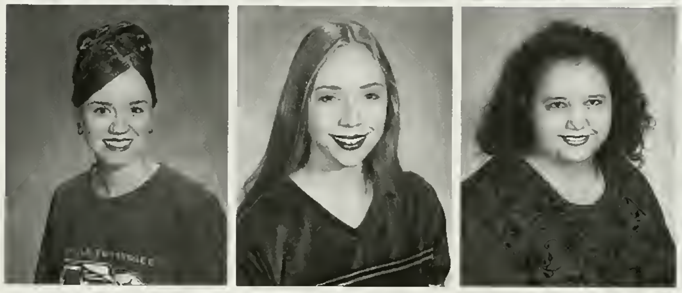
Sopho

Underc

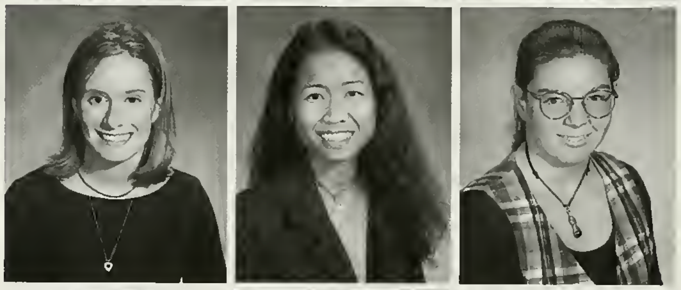
Clarence McFerren
Andrew McKay
Bard McNamee



Jessica Mentzer
Amber Miller
Christina Millheim



Renee Mithchell
Bounhom
Mitsamphanh
Jammie Mize



She's at the

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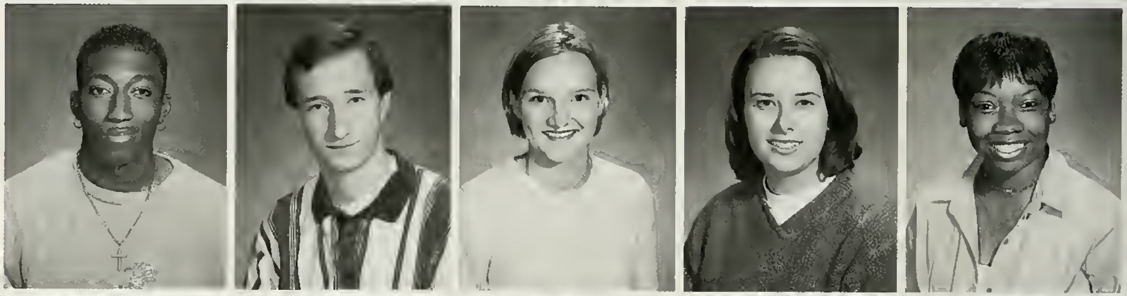
Robert Morgan
Erica Murphy
Jennifer Neas
Lakisha Newby



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Roslyn Nichols
Natasha Noe
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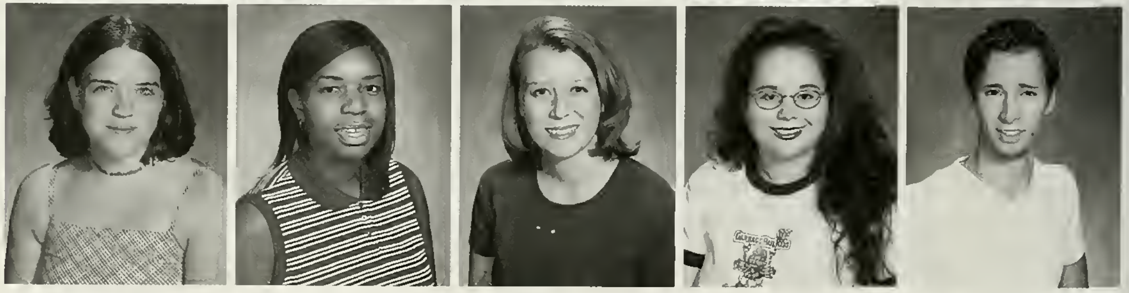
Matthew Parks



top of her class

Sophomore Jessica Heim of Manchester, Tenn., had a perfect 4.0 GPA her freshman year, and she is on the same track this year.

In high school, she was voted "Best All-Around Senior Girl," "Outstanding Senior" and "Most Talented Senior."

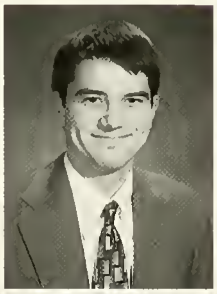
Jessica was vice president of Phi Eta Sigma Freshman Honor Society and this year is a member of Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society. She was recently selected as a student ambassador and will serve as a student orientation assistant for CUSTOMS this summer. She is also a Raider Rep, a member of the concert chorale, and a dorm floor representative. She works 10 hours a week in the Office of News and Public Affairs.

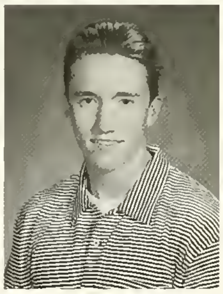
Her parents are Rolland and Jane Heim of Manchester.

Laquanda Partee
Rebecca Pickering

Erin Pope
Randy Powers

Christle Price
Amanda Proctor





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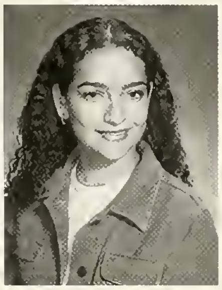
Isaac Putnam
Christian Rada
Kenneth Raymond
Stanley Blake Roden



Tiffany Russell
Cidy Saavedra
Kenny Sanders
Marie Shaffer
Emily Shrum

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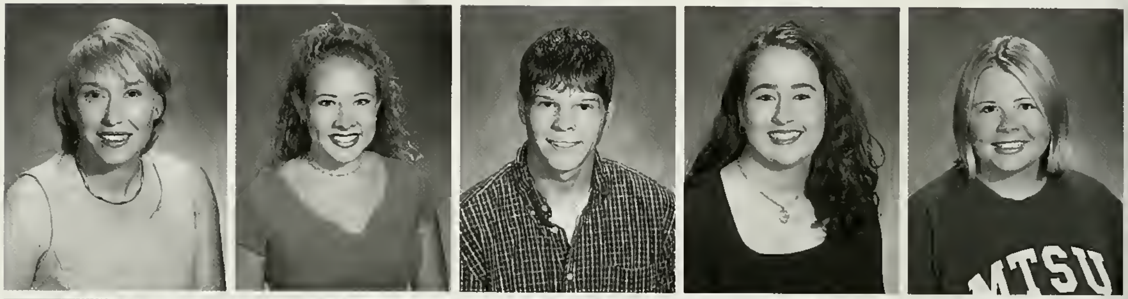
Katherine Skopik
Carrie Smith
Joseph L. Smith

Melissa Sowder
Leigh Spencer



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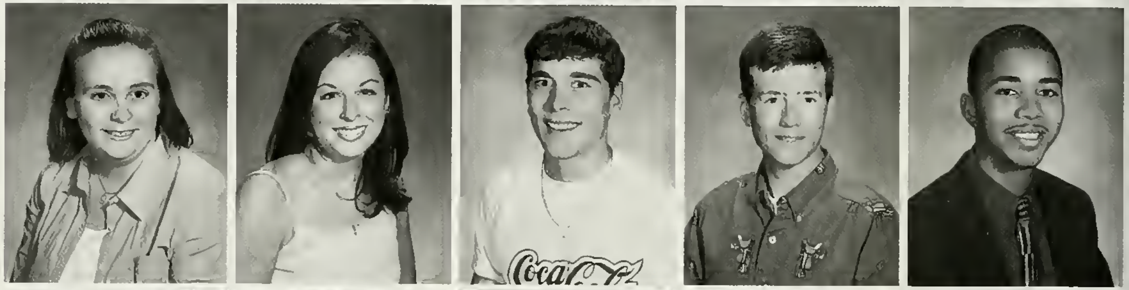
Laura Stewart
Matthew Stine
Kenny Stone
Paul Strickland



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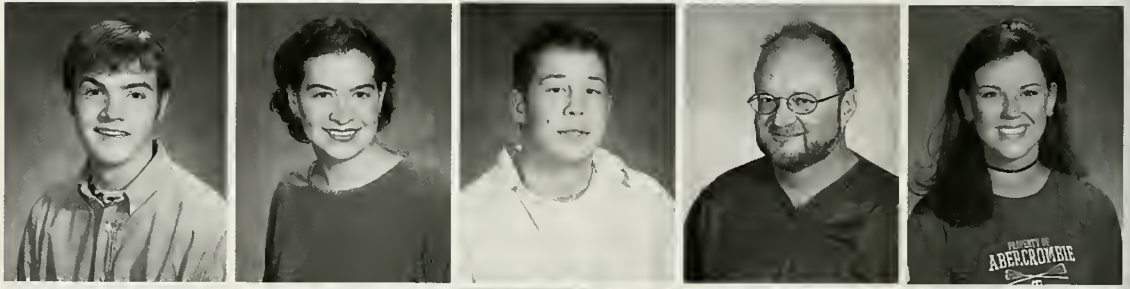
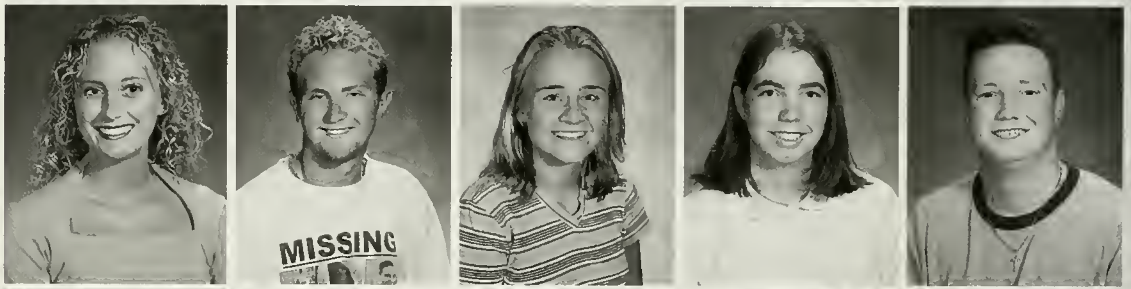
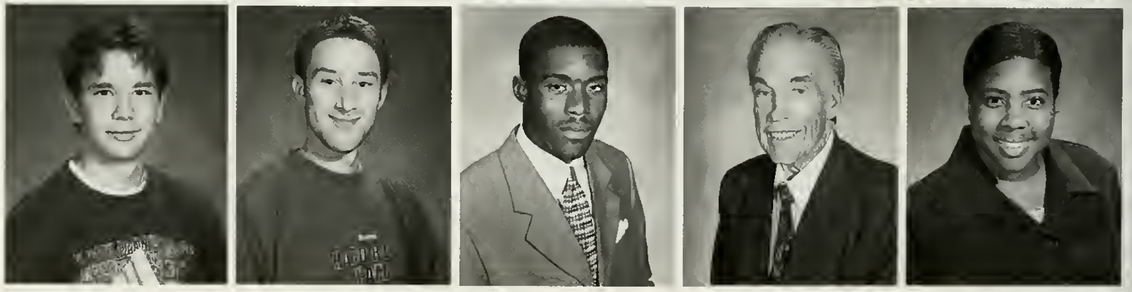
Lisa Thomason
Lee Thompson
Edward Trentham
Carley Tucker



Amanda Turlik
Zachary Turner
Heather Veltri
Jamie Waller
Owen Ward



Brenton Warner
Jeffrey Watkins
Eddie West
William Beryl West
Liggett Williams



Sophomore Evans is an athlete outside of Blue Raider sports

Like any other student athlete, Rob Evans has to balance schoolwork with the demands of training and competing on the elite level.

Evans, who is 20 years old, has been a competitive road cyclist since he was 14 and currently races on the Elite Amateur level. "This basically means I get the privilege of paying every week to race against some of the best professionals in the country and from around the world," said Evans.

Taking 16 hours of classes, training 20-25 hours a week, and working part-time up to 20 hours a week put a great stress on time for Evans. Then there is the travel to around the country to races that he has to fit in."I spend hours in a car or on a plane each week traveling to races then get a few days break then back on the road." But it is not all hardships in his opinion. "I have gotten to see most of the country and then some, how many people my age can say that," stated Evans.

A sophomore recording industry major, Evans said he wants to get a degree or "at least get most of the way towards a degree before I think about trying to turn professional." Right now, he races on the YMCA of Middle Tennessee/Sun and Ski Sports Cycling Team, one of the top teams in the country with riders from all over the Southeast. "There are many strong and experienced riders on the team I can learn from even more."

The team supports several aspects of racing but not enough that Evans could support himself just on racing alone. "That's why I am school right now," he added. "School helps me live without having to work 40 hours a week to pay rent and it also gives me structure to help me accomplish my training goals." Evans is a former two-time Indiana/Kentucky District Champion, he has competed in several National Championships and has some International race experience.

He hopes in the next few years to get a MTSU Cycling team started, "so I can compete in the Collegiate National Championships," turn professional and possibly aim for the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece.

Leslie Carol Boehms

Carla Rhodes performs with dummy David Bowie. Rhodes was featured on the Learning Channel in a documentary filmed when she was 16, featuring many aspects of her act that she no longer performs.

Campus dummy hits the big time

MTSU ventriloquist featured on Learning Channel special

By Leslie Carol Boehms

You may not know it, but there is a future star walking around the MTSU campus.

Not only does freshman Carla Rhodes have to adapt to the struggles of college life, but she also has the extra baggage of being a world-renowned ventriloquist.

Rhodes has performed in numerous cities across the United States, including Las Vegas, locally at Zanies and Trafalgar Square. Even though Rhodes is originally from Charlestown, Indiana, she quickly got her foot in the door here in Nashville.

Rhodes has been covered by her share of media, from " Good Morning America" to the" New York Times."

But lately there's added excitement in the eyes of Rhodes. That's because the Learning Channel will be airing a documentary on ventriloquism in which she is the main focus. The documentary was made when Rhodes was 16-years-old.

Though it has been sold to 27 countries and shown this summer in Australia, Rhodes stills feels self-conscious about seeing herself on television. "Some parts of the film are embarrassing because my act has changed a lot since then," Rhodes said. "I get embarrassed when I see myself on T.V. because I'm very critical of myself. Especially since it's been two years since the film was made. But it is very entertaining and great for where I was at the time."

Filmmakers for the documentary specifically followed Rhodes and one other ventriloquist throughout the film. Rhodes is one of the top ventriloquists in the field.

She's gained so much success partially because of the unique and often eccentric tactics she displays in her act. Her current stage performance is quite different now from what is displayed in the film.

Throughout the film, Rhodes is seen with a dummy named Victoria, which is no longer used in her act. She is now famous for her trademark dolls, David Bowie, Keith Richards and Mick Jagger. "My act is much different now because overall it is more humorous," Rhodes said. "I use my guitar in my act and do funny songs. I also do a lot more standup."The mixture of well-known puppets along with her original off the wall songs and humorous ad-libs makes her act unique and stand out in her field.

T.J. is MTSU's cross-dressing RA

By Joey Fortner

"In the world of transgender, there's drag queens, cross-dressers and transvestites," T.J. Gontczaruk says. "Drag queens are over the top. They're so female that you know they're guys. Transvestites try to blend in. I'm very much a cross-dresser – I just like to wear skirts, usually, and maybe a pair of shoes."

T.J., an MTSU student, says that cross-dressing is "about being comfortable." He's been doing it for eight years but only in public, or "out of the closet," as T.J. says, for the last three.

"It's not something you pick up and go with," he says. "It's part of who you are.

"I tried it when I was in the eighth grade," T.J. added. "I just saw one of my mom's dresses and thought I'd give it a try, and I liked it."

Today, T.J.'s closet is full of vinyl skirts, tank tops and dresses. Thirteen bottles of fingernail polish are neatly lined up on his dresser, and two pairs of knee-high boots accompany his even more eccentric thigh-high boots.

T.J. likes to cross-dress because he says it's a way for him to make a statement about not conforming to society.

"He's a unique individual," Elliott Awatt, an aerospace major, says.

T.J. says that sometimes other students approach him to ask questions about why he cross-dresses.

"I always go out of my way to be very nice to people who are willing to ask," T.J. continues. "I don't mind people who want to know, because they're the ones who care about who I am."

T.J., who moved to Murfreesboro from Albany, N.Y., says that he doesn't cross-dress in public because the South is not as accepting of cross-dressers as people in the North.

"Even when I came out of the closet up North," he says, "I wanted to see how things were going to be at first. I painted my nails out of nowhere and I just liked that. I did some other stuff like Halloween, and things like that. I came down here and did the same thing [I] talked with some people who were gay, and those who weren't that were my friends, and we knew that no matter whether I was accepted or not there were still people who were going to be behind me, either way."

T.J. said he is not gay, but as a cross-dresser, he says he supports and defends all minorities.

"When you've been living there long enough," he says, "you fight for who you are."

The scruffy-faced 22-year-old believes people should be absolutely true to themselves if they want to be happy, no matter what other people say.

Cross-dresser T.J. Gontczaruk shows off one of his many skirts.

He also says that his job as a resident assistant can sometimes be a little more challenging because he's a cross-dresser. Although his co-workers are very supportive, he says that some of his residents in Judd Hall have harassed him about his clothing. His residents don't say much anymore about the cross-dressing, but he still believes that people do say things behind his back.

"I'm not here to kid myself," T.J. says. "The way others perceive my ability to do my job will always be in question, simply because of the cross-dressing and simply because the way people want to take it as being out of the norm."

According to T.J., cross-dressing has caused people to blame him for things he didn't even do.

"It sets me up as being somebody who is different, and because of that, I'm usually the scapegoat. It is something that I understand that is going to happen. But don't expect to just lie down and take it either."

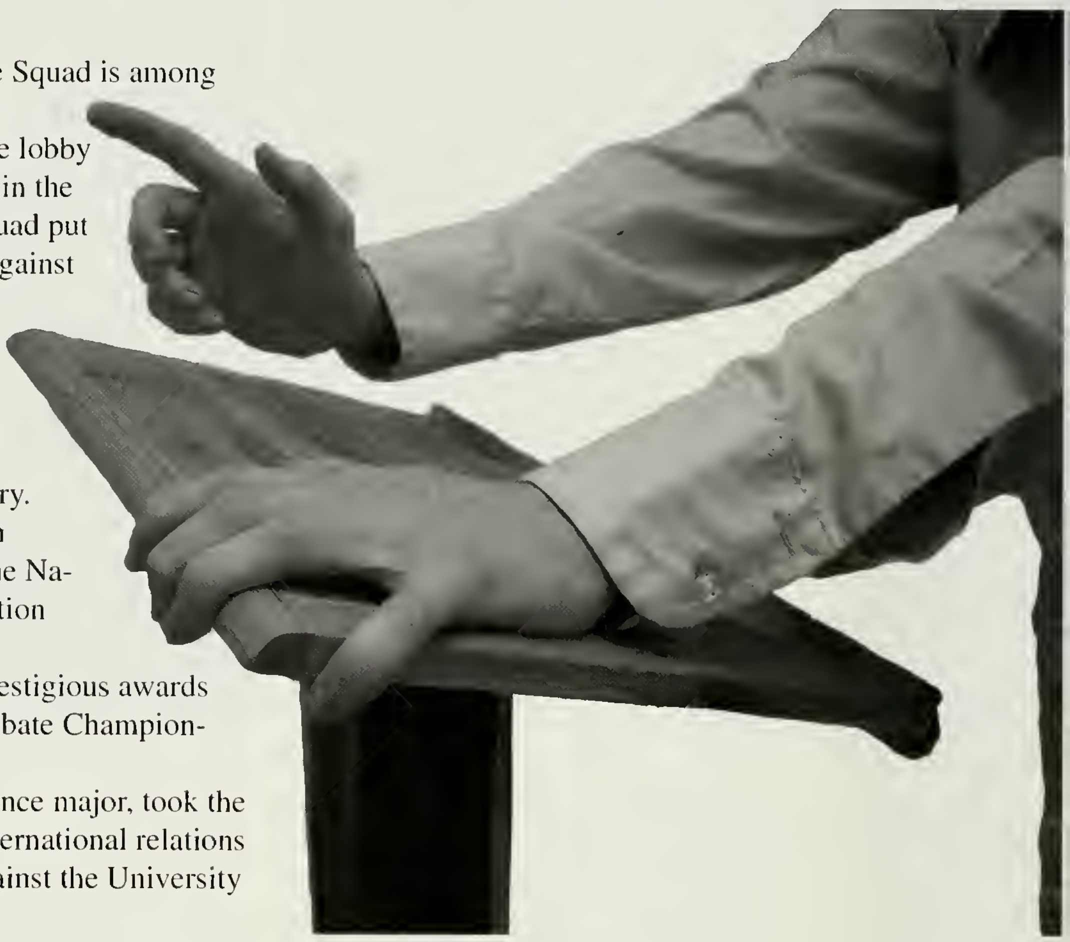
T.J. says he has many supportive classmates and friends who know him well enough to say that he doesn't participate in activities that could compromise his image as a resident assistant. He's fairly confident they also support his out-of-the-ordinary ensembles – even the tight black dresses.

ARGUABLY THE BEST...

Debate Squad rakes in 10 new trophies

By Amanda Maynord

It's indisputable - MTSU's Debate Squad is among the best.



More than 10 new trophies line the lobby of the Department of Speech and Theater in the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building. The squad put them there after successfully competing against more than 30 teams from 15 different colleges during the season.

This year MTSU's Debate Squad competed in the annual Southeast and Southeast Central Debate Championships held at the University of Floridain February. After pulling in six awards there, the team competed in Maryland and at MTSU in the National Cross Examination Debate Association Intercollegiate Debate Championships.

Two MTSU seniors were given prestigious awards at the Southeast and Southeast Central Debate Championships.

Natalie Woodward, a political science major, took the best speaker award. Terrance Bond, an international relations major, was awarded third best speaker against the University of Alabama team.

Bond and Woodward have also been acknowledged for their academic abilities and campus involvement. Bond was named one of the top 20 All-American Students. This award is given only to those students who show an exemplary academic record and make an overall contribution to campus life.

Woodward was named Academic All-American, an award given to those with exceptional academic careers.

Both seniors have been awarded scholarships as well. Bond was given the top scholarship to the University of Tennessee Law School and Woodward was offered a five-year fellowship at Vanderbilt University.

The senior members of the Debate Squad are not the only winners in this year's competitions. In the novice competition for first time debaters, John Schweri and Allan Lutes won individual honors.

Schweri, a senior journalism major, took home the top speaker award. Lutes took fifth place.

Lutes thanked Woodward, saying, "She is the linchpin in the whole thing. She was my teacher really."

The second top speaker award went to Schweri, who won two weeks earlier at the state tournament in Cookeville. Together Schweri and Lutes grabbed second-place team at the state tournament while Tiffany Frierson and Gabe Coyle won third-place team.

This year's coach, graduate assistant Ben Osborne, was named Outstanding Critic in the Southeast Central Region and Outstanding Graduate Assistant by the National Debate Tournament's District Six Directors Committee. The team is also led by graduate assistant and novice Andrew Butler.

After hosting the nationals, acting Debate Squad director Russell Church said, "The team is just recovering from this year and tying up loose ends."

MTSU's debate history goes back to the early 1900s with the creation of the Henry W. Grady Debating Society. The society was responsible for the beginning of MTSUs Debate Squad.

The team is looking forward to a new coach next year. MTSU alumnus and former national championship winner Greg Simerly will take over the position.

MTSU best in mediation tournament

By J. Michael Neal

Students from MTSU's fledgling mediation team won first place in December in the first ever National Intercollegiate Mediation Tournament in Des Moines, Iowa.

"Students reported that through Dr.Willis's leadership and training, they felt as though they were the best prepared team at the tournament," says John Vile, chair of the department of political science.

Clyde Willis, associate professor of political science, coached the team from the beginning, the third week of school this semester.

"He [Willis] did a phenomenal job. Without him, we'd have been completely lost," said Scott Griswold, one of the students representing MTSU in the tournament.

As Vile also stated, Griswold believed that "our level of preparedness was by far above that of the other schools there."

The students from MTSU had been in training twice a week since the third week of school, and according to Griswold, most of the other schools had trained about a month before the tournament.

"There were lawyers from John Marshall and other schools there, some big wigs, and most everything they had to tell us Willis had told us long before," Griswold continued.

"People would stop us in the halls," he said, "and recognize us as being from MTSU, and say, 'Oh, you have Dr. Willis on your team. Can we steal him?' They openly tried to recruit him."

"The students were the ones who learned, practiced and competed in the mediation tournament," said Willis. "Frankly, my name need not be associated with the team. I am extremely privileged and proud to be associated with this wonderful group of people at MTSU."

One week during last summer, he took a course in mediation, "which is also a part of becoming a court-certified mediator," which not only helped him teach mediation to the students but also gave him the idea to create a team in the first place. After he had gone through the training sessions, he "started talking about all these things," said Griswold, "and had the idea to start a mediation program."

The students met with Willis on Mondays and Tuesdays every week from the third week of school until the last week of November, the week before the tournament.

The other students involved were: Don Stewart, Jennifer King, Felicia Stevens, Andrew Roney, Tony Hirsch and Josh Hudgeons. These students not only won the trophy for best team, but also won individual trophies for being All American Participants.

"Mediation appears headed for the same kind of growth as mock trial has experienced over the last fifteen years," said Vile. He said that winning the first ever tournament is particularly rewarding because "national mock trial programs still note winners of all past competitions and there is special prestige involved in winning the first competition."

Griswold agreed, and although he believes that "no one will remember our names, it is a big deal to know that at every Mediation Tournament they will talk about MTSU."

As far as the future goes, Willis only hopes, and expects, for the students to "be true to the mediation concept and not look at the event as so much a competition."

Both he and Griswold point out that, as Willis said, "there was as much time given to instruction at the tournament as there was to 'competition'."

"They [the teachers there] kept throwing around the word peacemaking, as opposed to most court cases that are adversarial," Griswold noted.

The ethic they seemed to be teaching, said Griswold, is "lets come together and see what we can do, and maybe we can both win together."

This new perspective of courtroom litigation seems to be a welcome trend in the age of mudslinging, "teaching people to work together," as Griswold explained.

Intercontinental flight

Antique camera falls into hands of aerial photographe

By Jenny Cordle

The eye of the 60-year-old Minolta camera, dangling from a 6-foot weather balloon, stares at photographer Jonathan Trundle from 30 feet in the air.

But weather is the last thing on Jonathan's mind as he reels in the nylon string secured to both balloon and camera as if they were kites. Pulled by the weight of the skin-colored balloon, the Minolta dangles in the cloudless sky like an enormous tacky earring, twisting and turning with the March wind. Decoration against a flawless blue.

The camera blinks and a moment is captured from a height most photographers would never consider.

A former painting and drawing major, Trundle is now stealing moments with a camera his grandfather stole from a Japanese refugee during World War II.

"The camera's been sitting in my grandfather's house in Ringgold, Ga., 'till I got hold of it last semester," he says.

"I've always liked the different perspective and I wanted to do something a little different," Trundle says, referring to his Color II photography project for class.

A little difference goes a long way in photography, but Trundle isn't the first person to send a camera into the air with the aid of a balloon. French photographer Nadar beat him to it when he made the first aerial photographs from a hot air balloon in 1858.

"Call him Jonathan 'Nadar' Trundle," friend Dave Cerchiaro insists.

But Trundle prefers the work of William Eggleston, an aerial photographer at the turn of the 20th century.

"With the balloon, it's a whole different way of seeing something only airplanes would know," explains Trundle. He attempted the aerial project several times before the third time was the charm.

"It's just wonderful that he was able to gather all the elements together to attempt it," says Jim Norton, associate professor of photography. "In History of Photography class we learned about Nadar, who also did kite photography. When Jonathan learned about that, he just lit up.

"He got a kite and he was just running out there," recalls Norton, laughing as he motions toward the grassy knoll area in front of the photography building. "There wasn't any wind at all, but he was still running."

With the balloon, Trundle needs no wind. He reels the nylon string in with the help of John Collins, friend and fellow photographer.

"I'm just waiting for that balloon to pop, man!" John jokes.

Photo by Jenny Cordle

Jonathan Trundle and (lower left) John Collins prepare a balloon / camera combination to have a little fun and take a few photos.

For Trundle, the fun lies in letting go in hopes of gaining a new perspective. That's exactly what he had in mind when he borrowed the camera that journeyed from continent to continent. Borrowing history to make history.

"It lets me express myself," he says about the art of capturing time or an image. "It lets me create."

A sidewalker notices the contraption floating about in the sky. "Is that a weather balloon?" she yells across the Knoll. "Or it's a condom, I don't know!"

Trundle laughs as he does his best to tell her what's up. "It's just one big balloon and a lot of string."

Artist takes a look at our perceptions

By Nathalie Mornu

Frogs, fish and butterflies. One might guess that Marta Slaughter is majoring in biology. In reality, the art major uses these as motifs in her paintings.

The senior had a solo exhibit of about a half dozen paintings displayed in the Cube Gallery on the second floor of the Keathley University Center. The show, named "All In a Row," ran Jan. 30 through Feb. 9.

Much of Slaughter's work explores the ephemeral quality of remembering.

"It's about memory," she says. "How it can be filtered over time. It's hazy."

Remembering, Slaughter says, can bring about false perceptions of both reality and identity. Memory can be altered to become unrecognizable.

"What interests me about memory is how it can be distorted. There are so many facets to remembering. Memories never clear."

Along with other art students, Slaughter paints in a cramped space in the ROTC Annex. Her area, lit by a fluorescent light, is jam-packed with canvasses finished.

Slaughter points to specific canvasses to show some of the techniques she uses to convey or provoke memories.

In one, she's made a transparency of a frame, which is a beach scene, from a home movie and projected it, enlarged, onto a canvas. After tracing out the scene, she paints it, but it has blurred so much due to the enlarging that identifying the image is difficult.

The frog motif, Slaughter explains, derives from Kermit on "Sesame Street." Many of her paintings also include people. She uses 1950s-style illustrations and old photos to evoke a nostalgic feeling.

"Lately," she adds, "I've been taking photographs from family albums and using them in paintings."

Along with memory, Slaughter explores religion, family and relationships in some of her work.

She also has a deep interest in cultural identity. In one painting, the left half is layered with black and spots of white. The other side is an exquisitely rendered portrait of two young Vietnamese girls with inscrutable expressions. The children were neighbors of Slaughter's.

"It's like a homogenization of cultures," Slaughter says, recalling a visit to their house.

Slaughter gives few direct explanations of her work.

"I like my paintings to be not so overt," she says. "I think subtlety can be a good thing.

"I'd like the viewer to come away with their own meaning," she adds. "I can suggest form and color, but they bring to it their own memories and their own experiences, and that ends up mixed with what they see."

Photo by Jenny Cordle

Slaughter visited the Philippines, her mother's native land, about a year ago. The city of Manilla inspired perhaps her most unusual canvas. "It's like everybody lives on top of each other," she says. "It made me think more about population and children. It was just too much."

Her contemplations resulted in a canvas covered in small piles of dried anchovy heads, affixed to the canvas by wax colored with earth toned pigments. The fish represent Slaughter's mother, whose traditional diet is high in seafood. She uses wax for the texture it creates, and because it glazes over and visually softens the paintings beneath it.

"Wax is tied to preservation, but at the same time it glosses and adds many layers," she adds.

Waxing philosophically and poetically in her artist statement on the exhibit, Slaughter writes, "Memories are vignettes...they are just sliced snippets of distanced time and space...this cloudy dialogue of the mind can bring about filtered perceptions of both reality and identity."

Blind MTSU musician

By Jenny Cordle

Just as a mechanic tinkers under a car — his fingers serving as his eyes—Nick Sharp's fingers trickle down the chords of the guitar without hesitation. The lights from the Cyber Café dance across his forehead as he moves with every flick of a chord.

Behind those eyes is someone who hasn't seen since birth. Someone who is guided only by light and the scraping of a cane on concrete.

The illumination of fluorescent lighting on his face lets him know he's right where he needs to be — in the spotlight at Open Mic Night on a Monday.

"Scars are souvenirs you never lose," sings Sharp.

His voice resembles John Rzeznik's, lead singer of the Goo Goo Dolls, more than he'll admit as he sings "Name" to a faceless crowd of students.

"Are y'all all right out there?" he asks the students for reassurance during an instrumental break in the song.

The students open their mouths to howl and lift their hands to clap.

Freshman Nick Sharp, tightening his grip, lets his fingers weave their way in and out of the chords, covering the hole in the base of the guitar as he sings the last few lyrics of "Name."

For the next minute, Nick will hear only the sounds of students praising his efforts with clapping and variations of "Woo!"

Kudos for eight years of practicing a skill Nick refers to as "hell."

"There were times I'd get so mad over the guitar. You know, just throw it down in the case and want to rip it to shreds," says Nick, laughing as he pretends to hold his imaginary guitar toward the ground.

Needless to say, his brown Ovation guitar, decorated with intricate leaf patterns, is still intact. Occasionally, Nick bangs its case against a table or door as he's trying to find his way through campus buildings, the closest it's ever come to being abused.

Within eight years, he's shared his guitar with crowds of as many as 5,000, including an unexpected debut at a Billy Ray Cyrus concert at eleven-years-old, playing at local clubs with Charlie Daniels, opening up for Tim McGraw and appearing on The Regis and Kathie Lee Show.

Although most of Nick's performances have focused on the country music industry, he writes "just about anything."

Freshman Jennifer Crick, a friend who's known Nick for three years, says, "Nick surprises me with something new every time he plays. He's a wonderful musician,but he's very modest about it."

> "There's a lot of blind people who sit on their butts and collect Social Security. No one wants us to sit at home eating bonbons and watching Oprah. It's people like that who give people with disabilities a bad reputation."
>
> *Nick Sharp*

"Some of the songs I have written are more country, others resemble blues, and some are more edgy and alternative," says Nick, a recording industry management major.

"I don't like to say, 'Oh, I'm going to write this type of music and sing this type of song,'" he continues. "You limit yourself when you do that."

For Nick, there are no limits.

Ever since that fateful day when he sat in on a guitar lesson for his sister Jamey, he's expanded his musical knowledge and talent from the beating of drums to the picking of chords despite his complete loss of sight.

Nick says drums were his first love, but he's not allowed to have a drum set in the dorm room because of the noise. That didn't stop him.

His roommate, freshman Andy Owen, laughs as he recalls that Nick "set up boxes in the room and he was using them as drums."

"He can listen to a song on the radio and play it by ear immediately, and almost never messes up," brags Andy, amazed by his talent. "He's a remarkable musician and person. He refuses to be a statistic."

Refuses with abandon is more like it.

"There's a lot of blind people who sit on their butts and collect Social Security," Nick says, unsympathetically. "No one wants us to sit at home eating bonbons and watching Oprah. It's people like that who give people with disabilities a bad reputation."

* * *

Born three months prematurely, Nick spent the first few months of his life in an incubator.

proves he's 'Sharp'

"After four months in the hospital, the doctors told my parents, 'Oh, your son's gonna be crippled, your son's gonna be a vegetable,'" says Nick. "'You may as well pull the plug.'"

He deepens his voice to imitate plans of a higher power.

"Somehow, God was like, 'No, you've got a lot more purpose than to lie in some bed and have somebody change your diaper.'"

After doctors discovered Nick was ultimately blind, his parents began their "neverending mission to get my sight back come hell or high water."

But as a toddler, his parents had to face his disability when he noticed the sun setting through light perception as the light was going down from the sky. Light would be the only thing Nick would see for the rest of his life.

"As far as blindness bringing me down, I like being blind," he says in a serious manner. Laughter follows shortly behind.

"I really do, aside from the fact that it's hard for a brother to get some wheels around here, you know?"

He realizes his cane is the closest he's going to get to "wheels."

"It takes 15 minutes to get to class and this is a monster of a campus," explains Nick.

He spent three weeks during the summer, before his first semester, learning where all the buildings are with the help of a sighted guide, provided by Disabled Student Services.

"Nick was one of those good students who learned quickly," explains John Harris, director of Disabled Student Services.

"Some are better than others and some are afraid of the task," he says, referring to the 35 visually impaired and blind students on campus. "But Nick was aggressive."

Nick didn't learn about MTSU's accommodating disability program until after he was accepted, but he describes it as "a plus."

Nick takes advantage of books on tape, adaptive computer equipment and Braille Light, all provided by Disabled Student Services, who also hire readers and note-takers for individual students.

With as many as 800 students with disabilities, MTSU ranks second in the state for having the most disabled students.

"I would put our program up against any program in the South," says Harris. "Our technology puts us pretty well up there."

It's that technology that's going to help Nick get through his four years and work to get a Ph.D., "so I can show some validity about my work."

For now, Nick enjoys playing occasionally at the Cyber Café to keep up with his music.

* * *

As the last student claps, Nick begins another song with the help of Jennifer Crick, who sings with him sometimes.

He positions his fingers on the frets of the guitar and sings Limp Bizkit's "Break Stuff" in a mello voice. The students laugh at the sight of Nick singing such blunt lyrics, but Nick simply smiles, knowing he's pleased yet another crowd.

A fairy of a tale: Student story

By Natalie Mornu

Once upon a time, in a land far, far away, the MTSU storytellers captured audiences of young and old as they told fairy tales, myths and legends.

Students in Dr. Jette Halladay's storytelling workshop left the supportive atmosphere of the classroom in March and ventured forth to tell their tales publicly.

A few of Halladay's students entertained shoppers at the Murfreesboro Books-A-Million. A few days later, four other students captivated grade schoolers, freshly wound up from recess, at a local Catholic school.

Halladay's 20 students met one evening each week (in what looks like an abandoned room in Todd Library), rehearsed their stories in class and refined their techniques all semester.

Crackling with energy, Halladay peppered her students with advice the week before they performed.

"Make sure you don't wear a T-shirt that's more interesting than you are!

"Don't wear your hair so it flaps in your face!

"Don't wear a hat that covers your eyes!

"Get there early and check out the space.

"Slow down and speak clearly."

Halladay ruffled her short, silvery curls. Her tone was soothing, although she spoke with intensity. Telling a story, she said, is different than writing it. Like an actor, a storyteller can use his or her face, voice inflection and body.

To bring power to the narration, she encouraged the group to connect emotionally with their stories and to visualize them in their minds.

After a female student told a Native American story, Halladay instructed her to close her eyes and imagine a scene from the story.

"Do you see the sky? How does it look? What are the clouds like?" Halladay coached.

She continued prodding the young woman for details about buffaloes and other characters.

Halladay reminded the class to pay attention to cues from the audience, in case a story got too complicated or was too long.

"Part of being a storyteller is watching your audience," she said. "Your audience is your teacher."

From the start, Halladay has encouraged the class to tell stories to children.

"You will never feel so loved in your life. And you will never feel so successful in your life."

Led by their teachers, and closely monitored by several nuns, approximately 125 school children from kindergarten to fifth grade troop into the St. Rose of Lima school cafeteria Monday. The room resembles a lounge in an office building and, somehow, has no lingering odors of food or pine-scented floor cleaner.

As the children find places to sit on the floor or in the two rows of chairs toward the back, the four storytellers from MTSU quickly take the spotlight.

"Do I look nervous? I'm not nervous," says Kevin Dunn, spitting the words out subconsciously.

Before he can finish all his thoughts, the principal introduces them.

Dunn, a senior majoring in video production, goes first.

In Halladay's class, he often seems to rush through his stories — perhaps to quickly escape the discomfort of the limelight. For the St. Rose students, however, he blooms. With perfect composure, Dunn narrates a story about a surly, insecure king who doesn't understand that love is the spice of life. The children stare, deeply engrossed in the story, and applaud enthusiastically afterward.

Next, David Fletcher bounds to the front of the room, launching into a story about a clever girl kidnapped by a

tellers entertain local children

Photos by Nathalie Mornu

Left: MTSU student David Fletcher entertains students with his swashbuckling pirate adventure story.

Right: The students of St. Rose of Lima Catholic School listen attentively to one of their four guest storytellers from Dr. Jette Halladay's storytelling workshop.

pirate, complete with silly voices and sound effects. The children, and many of the adults, laugh as the manic Fletcher growls, sneers and squints like Popeye. Fletcher is clearly in his element. With a tall large frame, he uses his whole body, swinging his arms expressively. The students clamor and snicker when Fletcher talks about swabbing the poopdeck. The story barrels along as the kids gasp at the girl's feats and murmur to each other, nearly breathless from the exciting pace.

Without missing a beat when the story is over, Fletcher asks, "How many of you like fairy tales?"

Almost every student's hand shoots up.

The kids roll with laughter as they hear the adventures of a prince who gets turned into a green bunny. At one point, Fletcher mistakenly calls the prince a princess and the children shout almost immediately to correct him. He recovers effortlessly, sweeping his pointed finger over the audience.

"See? Good, you're listening!" he says triumphantly.

Fletcher's last story concerns a crayfish whom, through flattery, narrowly escapes ending up in a crow's stomach. As Fletcher caws raucously like a crow, the audience screeches with laughter.

Tamara Davis takes the floor next, and her use of audience participation pumps the kids up even more than Fletcher's high-energy telling. The senior divides the children, instructing one side of the room to meow and scratch the air every time she says the word "cat." She tells the other kids to roar each time she uses the word "tiger." As Davis tells a story about a cat teaching a tiger to hunt, the frenzied "tigers" roar louder and louder, until they're finally shouting. Each time this happens, Davis laughs.

"Oh, you're scaring me," she says.

The "cats," meanwhile, pierce eardrums, sounding like violins that need to be tuned. In the front row, second grader Jessica Jones, oblivious and in her own world, pretends to carefully stalk her prey.

Sophomore Michael Arguello wraps up the story telling by narrating a sobering tale about seeing his sister's ghost. The English major's story helps calm down most of the kids after Davis has driven them nearly out of their minds with excitement. Listening to Arguello's tale, however, many of the younger children start fidgeting.

The stories have taken longer than 45 minutes, which is about all the concentration restless youngsters can muster. So, Arguello keeps his story short.

The children clap with abandon to thank all four college students for coming.

Chris Nagy, a kindergartner sitting near Davis, whips around and says, "I liked your story the best."

To Explain why, he throws his arms out shouts, "because we got to be animals!"

As the storytellers leave, Davis thinks about their success at St. Rose.

"The kids gave us confidence," she says.

The cat's in the bag: *Jody Drake*

By Jenny Cordle

"Here kitty, kitty." Jody Drake extends her arm to the black and white creature crouched under the wooden steps of a campus building. Nearby sits an open can of tuna leading to an open cage.

The tuna doesn't tempt the cat. It's been well fed by countless students for weeks and has taken shelter with some 30 other cats under the modulars in the middle of campus.

Yet, when Jody stops crouching down to its level and stands to talk to concerned students, the cat's curiosity gets the best of him, and he steps out from under the frame of the wooden stairs.

Drake saves lives in her spare time. She has ever since her curiosity led her to a cage that university maintenance personnel set out for the cats near the modulars. A few phone calls proved Drake's instincts were right. Maintenance had trapped 13 cats, each of them taken to the pound, and each of them euthanized upon arrival.

"I started school here in January and discovered the problem a week later," says Jody.

Within weeks, she posted fliers, circulated a petition and captured eight cats, six of which have prospective homes. Two have been adopted by Happy Tales, a private no-kill facility in Franklin. The rest are with Drake and several other students. About 20 cats are still under the modulars.

"We are trying to find as many homes as possible for the cats," says Deborah McClain, Happy Tales' shelter manager and cat adoption coordinator. "We can't take cats immediately because they must go through adoption coordinators like Jody (Drake).

"Right now our shelter is full, but we are maintaining a waiting list."

Happy Tales has been in Franklin for four years and McClain says 10 cats are adopted each week on average.

"I want to make sure these cats are taken care of as humanely as possible," says McClain.

The cats' rescue, however, comes at a price. Drake arranged for People for Animals to spay and neuter the cats for free. If this is not done, they are not eligible for adoption. Still, that leaves the cost of approximately $75 per cat that Drake has been paying. All of the cats must be tested for feline leukemia and AIDS, de-wormed, de-fleaed and given shots. Each cat has ear mites as well.

"My Visa's not too happy," she jokes.

She's not kidding. Twenty more cats at $75 each adds up to $1,500 in veterinary bills.

That's why she started a campus-wide organization to continue the donation table she set up in the Keathley University Center, which has raised $220 from generous students, all of which she has spent.

Photo by Jenny Cordle

Jody Drake (right) and another student talk to Max after coaxing him from underneath a modular building and into the cage. Max was adopted from Happy Tails, a no-kill facility in Franklin.

"Everything's going good," she says of her plans. "If the donations don't keep coming, I'm still going to do this.

"I couldn't stand being on campus for four years and just letting it go."

Luckily for the cats, maintenance personnel gave up on the cat situation weeks ago, says David Gray, director of facilities services.

"We haven't done anything with the cats in months," Gray said in March. "We had been taking complaints from the faculty about fleas under the modulars and opossums, but we stopped taking them to the pound. There are other things I need to do."

saves feline lives in her spare time

Photos by Jenny Cordle

Jody Drake (right) attempts to raise money through donations in the KUC lobby to save stray cats on campus -- like Max (above) -- from shelters that put animals to sleep.

> “Everything’s going good. If the donations don’t keep coming, I’m still going to do this. I couldn’t stand being on campus for four years and just letting it go.”
>
> *Jody Drake*

James Luter, manager of Grounds Services, agrees.

“We’re not in the business of killing cats,” he says.

Luter says the process of capturing the cats took two man-hours a day.

“The cats became more of a nuisance to students,” he continues, “and we would get complaints from nearby dorms.

“We’re just trying to do what’s right for the modulars, students and professors.”

This month, Drake caught three cats — a 6-month-old Siamese female, a two-year-old black and white male and a three-month-old female silver tabby.

“She’s still very frightened, but she’s beautiful,” says Drake about the Siamese, who was taken by a student who works at the Cat Shoppe of Green Hills, where cats can be adopted.

As for the male, she says, “He’s chilling out.

“I’m waiting for his testosterone level to chill out since he was neutered.”

Another student, who works at Howl at the Moon, which has five indoor cats and five outdoor cats, is interested in taking the cat.

Drake says she’s sure the tabby will get adopted soon.

“They’re all going to these different outlets,” she says. “Happy Tales, The Cat Shoppe, Howl at the Moon...”

• • •

Meanwhile, the cat wearing the tuxedo inches toward the can of tuna as well as the cage. Drake knows there’s a chance the cat will walk into the cage paw by paw, leaving its tail poking out. If he does, she refuses to shut the cage for fear that his tail might get snapped in the slam.

He prances in, tail and all.

She slams the door shut just in time for the cat to turn around to the steel bars separating him from his world. Days later he has a name — Max.

Weeks later, he’s back in the cage on his way to Happy Tales.

“Max was adopted,” Drake says gratefully. “He wasn’t even there for five minutes and he was adopted.

“It’s hard to let ’em go.”

Student director Keith Dixon

By Sarah Jane Vaughn

Writers write, nurses nurse, preachers preach, teachers teach and dreamers dream.

And Keith Dixon, a May 2001 theatre graduate, fulfilled a long-time desire to direct Irish playwright Frank McGuinness' "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me," for his final senior project.

As part of graduation requirements for the theatre program, students are required to complete a senior project. Dixon's project was a student-directed, student-designed and student-produced full-length play in the Studio Theatre of the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building.

Besides going to class, theatre people are constantly involved in a creative project. Whether it be performing, teaching, designing or directing, on campus or off campus, in town or out of town, their creative minds can't stop.

Dixon said once a person gets theatre in their bloodstream, there is no turning back.

"I saw this play done on Broadway seven years ago and the emotional intensity has stuck with me," said Dixon. The play is set in a basement somewhere near or in Beirut, Lebanon, during the late '80s or early '90s. This is approximately the time of the TWA terrorist hijacking and hostage taking.

The play is a psychological drama about how three men "struggle to maintain their dignity, their sanity and their health in the face of imprisonment and death," said Dixon.

When the play opens, the audience understands that the men have been in their situation for awhile and were possibly beaten or tortured through ruthless interrogations. "Just imagine being chained to a wall for days and nights, months at a time and having no contact with the outside world," said Dixon. "The rehearsal process has been emotionally challenging because of the material."

Because this is a project, Dixon was able to hand pick the cast and production team. The three characters are: John Swader as Adam, an American doctor; Rob Shumate as Edward, an Irish journalist; and Daniel Bond as Michael, a British professor.

And because Dixon had the opportunity to work with his actors and designers on previous shows, "I knew that they could capture the feel of the play that I was going for," he said.

The play is an emotional roller coaster, and the cast does an excellent job portraying the levels. Within minutes of the show opening, the audience has bonded with the men. And a sense of loss creeps in because these characters are based loosely on real-life situations.

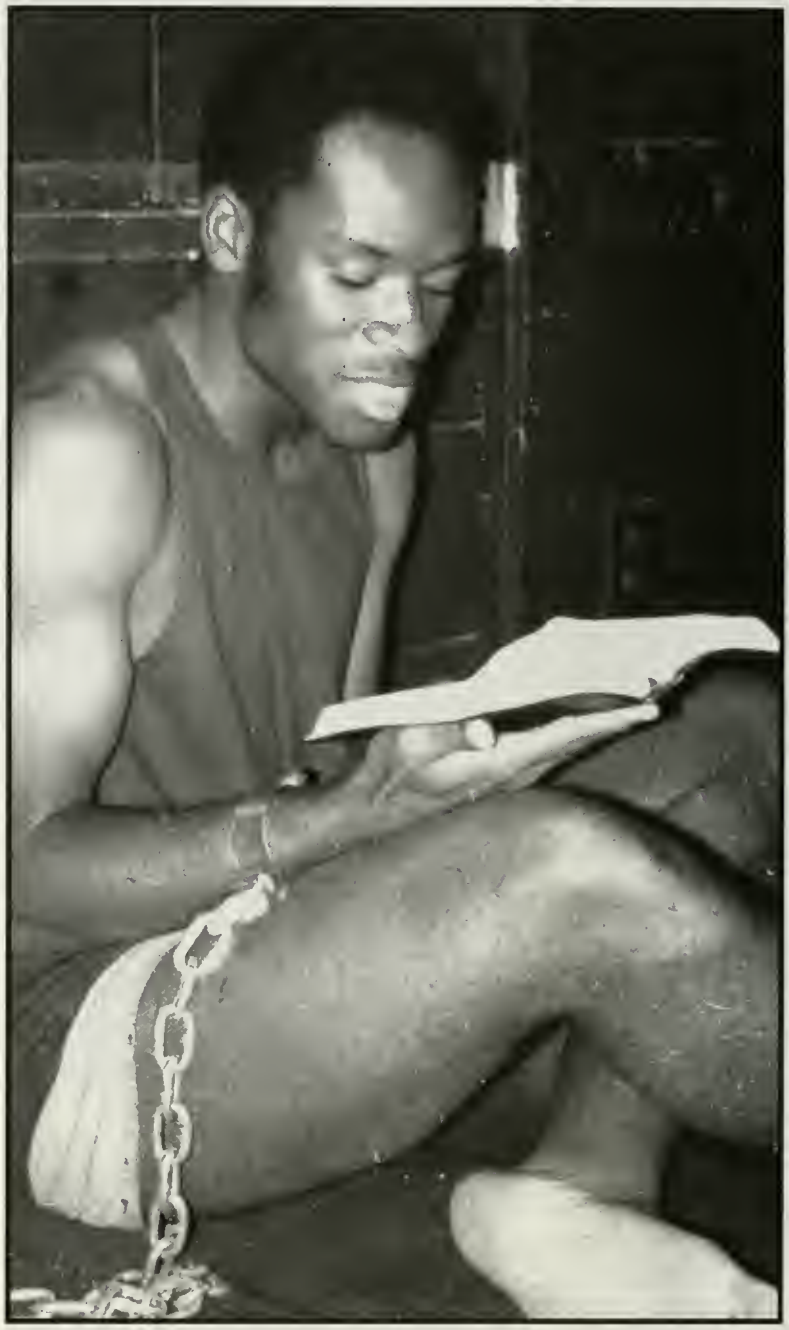


Photo by Jenny Cordle

John Swader (Adam, an American doctor) reads to pass his time as a prisoner in a scene from "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me."

"I want the audience to feel for these men the way that they have learned to feel for each other," said Dixon. The set, lighting and costuming are essential for getting the point across.

"I see theatre as telling a story, and as a director I am allowed to tell the story in my own way," Dixon said.

"The intensity of it brought me to tears," said Katie Masseri, stage assistant.

The hand-picked production team includes: Paul

'watches over' cast members

Collins, assistant director; Amy Moyers, stage manager; Melissa Goldhamer, costume designer; Tonya Goldsberry, set designer; and Kevin Clark, lighting designer.

The show was entirely produced by the efforts of Alpha Psi Omega, a theatre honors fraternity in which Dixon is an active member.

"Theatre is a collaboration process and this is really what this has been about," said Dixon.

"This is the first time that I have ever worked with a design team and so it's been a learning process as well. I've learned how to better communicate with designers and actors and that's the educational part of theatre."

"Amy Moyers has been a Godsend. She's kept me organized, which is of utmost importance when dealing with so many people," said Dixon.

Clark agreed to work with Dixon on this project "because it would give me the opportunity to design a show as an undergraduate student," he said.

"Keith has been really cool, he's been positive about my ideas … and if not, he hasn't been afraid to come and talk to me about it so we could work the problem out together," Clark said.

"It's been a lot of fun to work with Keith, he's been very open and relaxed," said Goldhamer. "It's been really cool. Because we were sponsored by APO, Keith actually gave me my own budget," she added. This enabled Goldhamer to shop and price material on her own instead of pulling things out of the closet.

To raise money for the production, APO sponsored a bake sale in the KUC earlier in the semester. Approximately 25 theatre students haunted the Monster Maze, a corn maze near Lebanon, for two nights around Halloween. They also held a yard sale with all proceeds going to APO and the production of "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me."

Dixon previously directed "It Runs In The Family," a British farce by Ray Cooney at the Community Playhouse in Tullahoma.

Dixon said he has always thought that he would be interested in directing, but it was after taking Deborah Anderson's fundamentals and advanced directing that he realized directing was where he wanted to put his energy.

As well as directing, Dixon also performs. He has been in several MTSU productions including "The Imaginary Invalid," "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest" and "A Raisin In The Sun." He also worked on "The Importance Of Being Earnest" at the Center for the Arts two years ago.

As part of MTSU's regular theatre season in February 2001, Dixon directed "Zoo Story" by Edward Albee.

Photo by Jenny Cordle

Senior Rob Shumate (Edward, an Irish journalist) contemplates waking junior Daniel Bond (Michael, an English literature professor) up from his slumber on the cold prison floor in a scene from "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me."

"I love it; it's what I want to do," said Dixon. "I'd like to direct for a living."

His only pay as an undergraduate was pats on the back and the satisfaction of entertaining patrons of the studio theatre. His next step is on to graduate school to further his experience, knowledge and love of theatre and directing.

And without the many talented, creative and organized efforts of dedicated MTSU theatre students, "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me" could never happen. Writers write, nurses nurse, preachers preach, teachers teach and dreamers dream. And without the dreamers, there wouldn't be any of the rest.

Raiders take to the air

By Tracy Ratzlaff

What exactly are the Flying Raiders? Most MTSU students can't guess.

"Is it a football team or something?" replies John Brown, a Radio/TV major. "I just don't know."

Give up? The Flying Raiders are a team that practices and competes like any other MTSU team; only they do it in the air. A "flight team" is the preferred term, and the team members practice and compete in single-engine Cessnas — the little planes seen buzzing around the Murfreesboro sky.

But it's not all air for these aviators.

"There's ground events and then there's flight events," says Coach Jerry Hill. Events are designed to test what the student pilots have learned.

The aerospace department supports the team. Right now everyone on the team is an aerospace major, but students outside the department are also welcome to join.

"I would actually love to have some people who aren't aerospace [majors] come out," says Brad Baxter, team captain. "Just to give them an idea of what it's all about."

Most of the events the team is judged on are technical terms: power-on landings, power-off landings, E6B computer, etc. One of the more difficult events is navigation. The pilot has to plan and fly a route based only on given longitude and latitude checkpoints. Points are deducted if the pilot misses his checkpoint by the projected time.

First Officer Rebecca Carter says that most team members get excited about the landing events.

"That's the thing [where] you have team members standing and watching and cheering you on," she explains.

"That's where you get to show off your skills," adds Baxter. "It's where the top gun comes out in all of us."

The last flight event, the Message Drop, is kind of a fun one, according to Hill. "Or you might hear some of the students refer to it as the 'bomb drop'," he chuckles.

This is where the bombardier drops a piece of balsa wood with the score card inside from the airplane. The idea is for the "message," which only weighs about three oz., to fall as close to the target (two barrels) as possible.

Team member Rachel Hunter set a new record this year in the message drop, jokes Hill. "I forget what they had written down, it was like 12,765,785 feet and 6 inches from the target."

"We won't talk about that," Hunter says, smiling. "Unfortunately they announced it at the awards ceremony with all the schools in Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois and Indiana.

Ed Miller placed second in the region for a landing event, Thomas Johnson placed in two events, and Baxter received the Scot Perry Award. This award is given to one person in the region each year. Each team gets to nominate a person they feel has done the most for their team and for the National Intercollegiate Flight Association.

Photo by Matthew Starling

Baxter says he was surprised when he won the award."I had no idea," he says. "I was sitting at the awards banquet, and about passed out when they called my name."

But there was no national competition for the Flying Raiders this year. They weren't one of the top three in the region, therefore, unable to compete nationally.

The last time the team won the region was in the late 1980s, when they went three times.

Hill's eyes gleam when he tells about the first time the team won the Region 8 championship. It was in 1973, about three years after the team was created.

"It was an experience that, to this day, none of us have forgotten," confides Hill. "Boy, we were a rag-bag outfit, too."

The team is far from "rag-bag" now. Team membership has been up for two consecutive years. They also just acquired their first airplane, which Hill said will help the team. Most of the planes they use belong to MTSU.

Next year's competition will be held in Murfreesboro for the first time since 1995.

"We're starting to come around and get a little bit bigger and stronger," Hill tells me. "It's hard to compete with Southern Illinois [University], University of Illinois, and Purdue University. Their schools provide them with quite a bit of assistance."

Some of the money the Flying Raiders earn for flight time is through the team members' hard work.

"We wash [MTSU's] airplanes to pay for flying their airplanes," Carter replies.

Photos by Matthew Starling

Left: The "Flying Tigers" of the 8th Battalion, 229th Attack Helicopter Battalion, lift-off in March following a day of answering questions and letting students get a closer look at the AH-64 Helicopter. The unit is located at Fort Knox, Ky., and is a U.S. Army Reserve unit. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ronald E. Shipley said, "We love our job and getting to spread the word about it is a great thing." He added, "We came to MTSU to get people interested and show off this awsome machine."

Below: Travis Choat takes a break from his hard work on a sunny Friday afternoon to catch some rays. He was laying outside of the Photo Building next to the Knoll.

Student Affairs

Student Affairs is the part of the university that seeks to make life outside the classroom better for students. The division houses departments as diverse as Housing, Campus Recreation, Greek Life, Student Publications and Disabled Student Services.

Above left: Derrick Wilson
Above: MTSU Photographic Services
Right: Elisa Fisk

2001

Dr.David Hayes
Associate Vice President
and Dean of Student Life

Dr.Robert K.Glenn
Vice President for Student Affairs

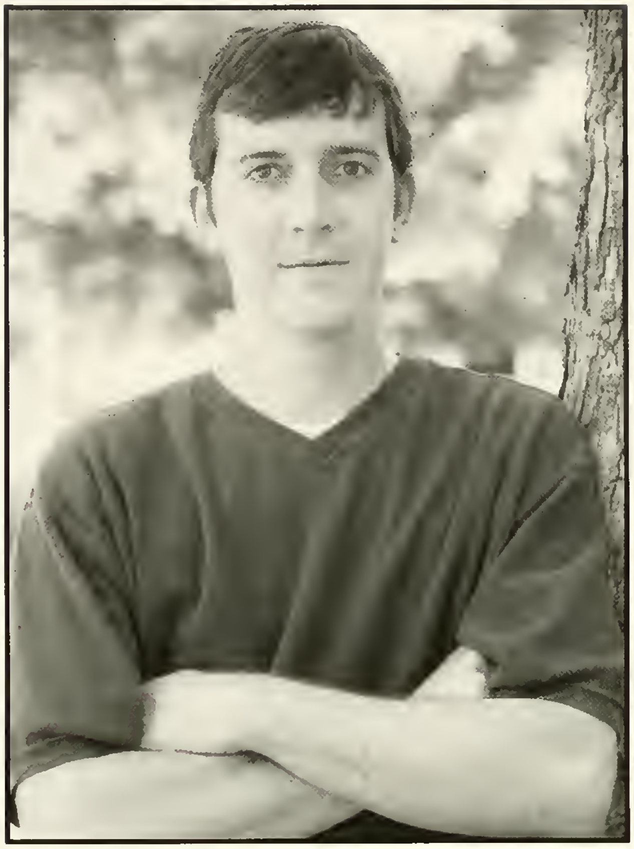
Recognizing that an integral part of the university experience and an individual student's personal development take place though activities outside the formal classroom setting, the Division of Student Affairs implements programs and services designed to complement the classroom experience and prepare students to be educated and productive members of society. The division does this by providing opportunities to facilitate social, intellectual, physical and emotional growth, assisting students to become actively involved in campus life, serving as an advocate for students' concerns to the university community and by encouraging an environment responsive to individual differences and which is representative of the diversity of MTSU's population.

The division has two major components – each standing separately – but working together to realize the overall goals and purposes of the Student Affairs organization. These are Student Life and Student Services, with the various programs and services assigned according to the specific role the play in realizing the division's objectives.

Education outside
Division of Student Affairs
the classroom

Dr.Gene Fitch
Associate Dean of Student Life

Drew Bergman
Interim Assistant Dean of Judicial Affairs



Harold Smith
Interim Dean for Student Services

Dr.Debra Sells
Dean of Academic Support Services

Student Leaders

SGA

John Marshall
SGA President

Josh Pounders

Matt Walker

Student Government Association

The Student Government Association (SGA) represents the mechanism through which students are afforded the opportunity to participate in university governance by ensuring an exchange of ideas and opinions between the student body and the administration. The purpose of SGA is to promote student welfare, provide training in the general principles of the democratic process and to prepare students to become responsible citizens. SGA actively seeks to protect the rights of the student and to improve the quality of student life. Students are encouraged to become involved in SGA activities and to contact the SGA Office with any concerns arising from their enrollment at MTSU.

Chi Omega welcomes new members on Bid Day 2000.

Victor Felts, Director of Greek Life

Greek organizations at MTSU are self-governed by three separate bodies. The Interfraternity Council is composed of 12 member fraternities of the National Interfraternity Conference; the Panhellenic Conference sororities; and the United Greek Council, which governs the affairs of eight local chapters representing National Pan-Hellenic Council Fraternities and Sororities. The Director of Greek Life counsels all three governing bodies and also coordinates programs which facilitate the development of leadership skills, social acumen and superior scholarship within the Greek community.

Greek Life

Bringing Students Together

Members of Phi Beta Sigma and Zeta Phi Beta celebrate after a fundraising event.

Photo by Elisa Fisk

Sorority members take a break from the American Heart Walk.

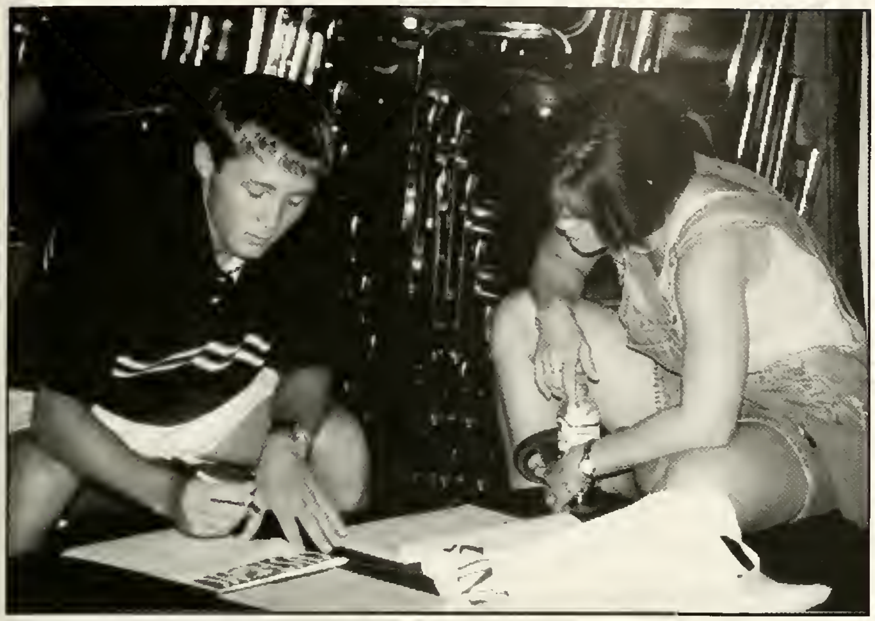
Members of Omega Psi Phi and Sigma Alpha Epsilon came together to collect cans for a joint can drive.

Student Development and Orientation

2000-2001 S.O.A"s

Orientation for freshmen and undergraduate transfer students is provided during the summer prior to matriculation. Several sessions are offered to accommodate individual schedules. The programs allow new students to meet an academic adviser, participate in pre-selection of courses and become familiar with campus activities and services. Current topics of special concern to college students are also addressed. All new students and their parents or spouses are encouraged to attend. Upperclass students work as Student Orientation Assistants to facilitate the two-day program and show the incoming students around campus.

Two new freshman figure out their fall schedules at Customs.



Customs

Customs at MTSU does not involve standing in a long line and getting grilled about what you brought back into the country and getting the soles of your shoes scrubbed if you visited a foot and mouth country.

What Customs at MTSU does is provide the incoming student with a way to see the campus of MTSU, find their way around, register for classes and make that final decision about whether this is the place they want to attend.

Over the course of two days, students participate in activities split up into the "countries" – hence the name "Customs" – where they can interact with other new students and have fun getting used to college life. These groups help in making new friends so the first few weeks of school there are a few familiar faces around.

Photos by Elisa Fisk

Middle: Current students explain the benefits of their organization during a Customs event in the Campus Recreation Center.

Above: Members of fraternities and sororities recruit new freshman for fall rush.

Campus Recreation

Adventure, Fitness and Fun

Front Row L-R: Ray Wiley, Charlie Gregory, Jerry Langham, Jackie Ingram
Back Row L-R: Roger Heimerman, Mark owens, Beverly Wall, Vonda Scott

The campus recreation office and the Recreation Center have much to offer MTSU students. Opportunities include participation in team or club sports, outdoor pursuits, fitness activities, aquatic programs and leisure clinics. A wide variety of outdoor and other recreation equipment is available for checkout by students. The Recreation Center, which opened in Fall 1995, provides students with a state-of-the art facility. The Center includes six basketball/volleyball courts, six racquetball courts, an aerobic room, an 8,000 square-foot free weights area, cardiovascular machines, an indoor swimming pool, locker rooms, a rock climbing wall and a sun deck with four sand volleyball courts adjacent. The center is open seven days a week during fall, spring and summer terms.

Students enjoy white water rafting while on a trip sponsered by Campus Recreation.

Photo by Elisa Fisk

Members of Pi Kappa Alpha and Sigma Alpha Epsilon enjoy a friendly game of intramural football.

Scarlett Commons, MTSU's newest housing complex

Debra Sells, Director of Housing and Residential Life

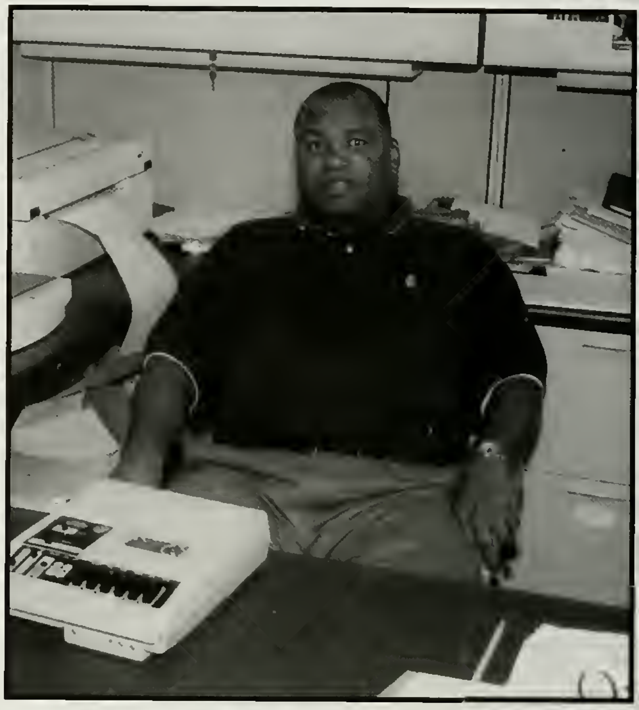
More than 3,000 students now live on campus with the addition of Scarlett Commons and Greek Row. The advantages of living on campus are tremendous. Students living on campus are part of a vital living, learning community which emphasizes academic excellence; interaction with other students, faculty and staff; and active involvement in the campus community. Each residence hall is staffed with trained and knowledgeable student resident assistants who are there to help students in any way they can. The halls are also supervised by professional residence area coordinators.

Housing and Residential Life

Giving Students a home away from home

Disabled Student Services

John Harris
Disabled Student Services Director



Disabled Student Services is the coordinating office which distributes information concerning services available to students with disabilities. The office acts as an advocate for disabled students enrolled at the university, surveying the needs of these students and developing programs to meet those needs.

L-R: Mia Patterson, Shirley Travis, Allison Spindler, John Harris, Amanda Tunbo, Melissa Smith, Philip Voorhees

Front Row: Dala Jernigan, Susan Shepard, Michael Johson
Back Row: Jeanne Hoeshst-Ronner,Dr. Jane Tipps, Joe Tucibat

The general purpose of the Counseling and Testing Center is to provide appropriate services for any enrolled student of the University and to work with faculty members and students in the planning and achievement of educational goals. The center provides career-vocational counseling, personal counseling and both group and individual testing. Through a cooperative arrangement with the Placement Center, students have help in career choice and placement opportunities. The Counseling and Testing Center offers students the opportunity to seek reasonable and rational solutions to problems with the help of professional counselors in an environment of confidentiality. Students desiring any of these services are urged to contact the Center, located in Keathley University Center 329.

Counseling and Testing

Multicultural Affairs

Clockwise from lower left: Nikki Edwards, Ralph Metcalf, Crystal Nix, Michael Tolbert, Tonya Stanton Sherrie Murray

The Office of Multicultural Affairs provides a welcoming and supportive environment for minority students. The office also serves as a link between culturally diverse students and the university community. Services offered include registration assistance, financial aid, counseling, academic advising, tutoring, mentoring and programming in multicultural awareness.

Photo by Derrick Wilson

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity performs at the Opryland Hotel.

Photo by Erika Pryor

Old and new members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority celebrate after their induction.

Photo by Derrick Wilson

Members of Omega Psi Phi show off their stepping abilities.

Photo by Erika Pryor

Members of Phi Beta Sigma and Zeta Phi Beta take a moment to pose for a picture.

Harold Smith
Director of Student Unions and Programming

Student Programming provides the administrative framework for extracurricular activities promoted by Special Events. Special Events plans and present activities which serve the cultural, educational and social interests of the student body and the general community. The Ticket Office also is supervised through the Office of Student Programming and is located in the northeast corner of Murphy Center. MTSU students are admitted free to all regularly scheduled home games.

L-R: Jan Garrett, Kristen Clemmer, Trudy Sweeten, Sandra Stott, Lakisha Newby, Cole Wampler, Harold C. Smith, Joyce Warpoole, Mimi Thomas, Georgia Dennis

Student Programming

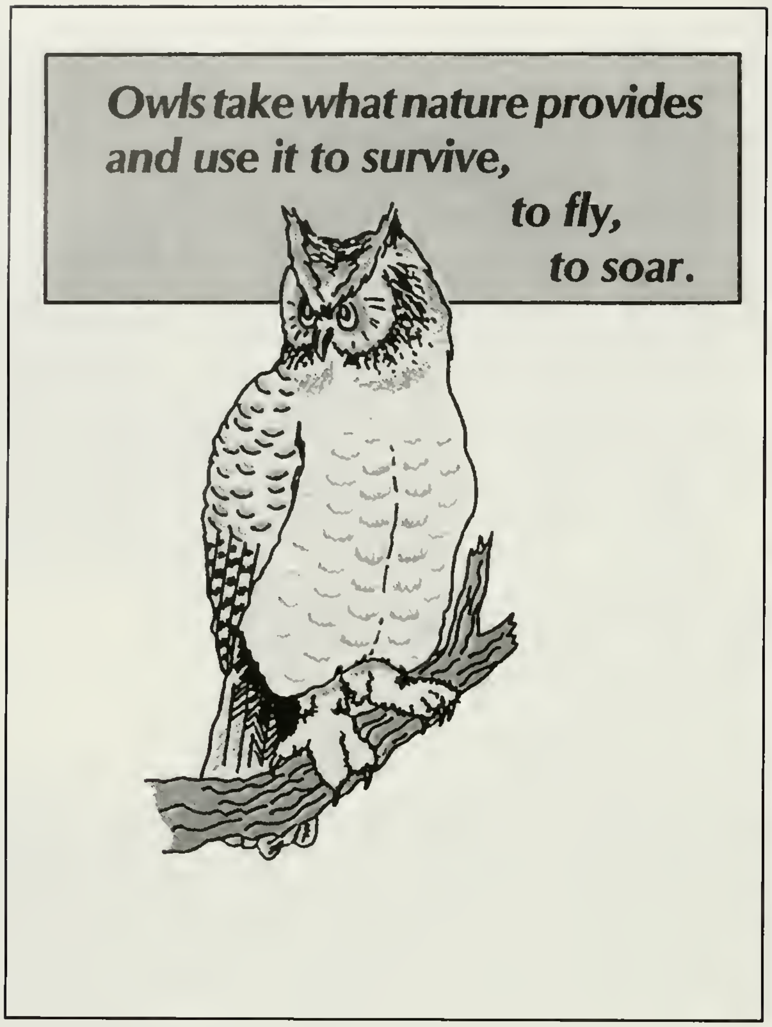
These guys take a ride in a ballon during the Homecoming pregame tailgate party.

"The Art of Kissing" put random strangers together for a demonstration before the student body.

A skydiving simulator was on hand for students to try during Homecoming week .

All photos by Matthew Starling

Our Lady Peace played a free show to a packed house on campus.


Owls take what nature provides
and use it to survive,
to fly,
to soar.

Carol Ann Baily
Director of Adult Services

The Adult Services Center serves as an information and referral center for those students who are returning to formal studies or beginning college for the first time as adult learners. The center is an advocate for the needs of adult learners. Workshops designed to help the adult learner succeed in reentering college are offered. Located in Keathley University Center 320, the center helps make available the services of various other university offices to students on campus for classes at hours other than regular business hours. The center also provides a place to meet and share ideas with other adult learners. A student organization called OWLS (Older Wiser Learners) is coordinated through the Center.

Adult Services Center

Opening Doors for Older Wiser Learners

OWLS officers:
Carol Ann Bailey, adviser;
Pamelas Sheldon, president;
and Jana Houston, historian

Pinnacle Honor Society for non-traditional students.

Adviser Carol Ann Bailey, Historian Jana Houston, Vice President Linda Fagan, President Sherry Scott

Placement and Employment Center

Martha Turner
Director of Placement and Employment

The university provides a year-round centralized placement service for its students and alumni through the Placement and Student Employment Center. The office assists prospective graduates and alumni in securing career positions. Employers from a variety of business and industry conduct on-campus interviews with students. Other placement services include the development of reference files for credentials, career job listings, part-time and summer employment opportunities and the career library.

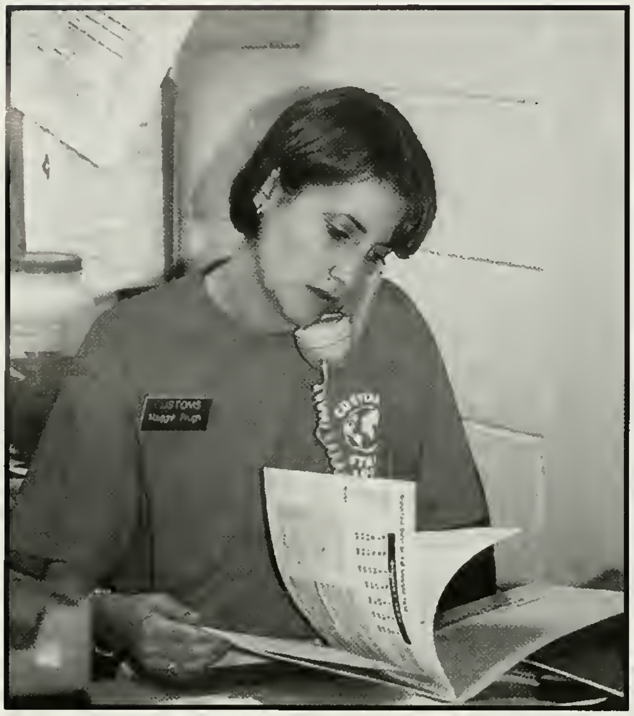
L-R: Leigh Ann Brown, Martha Turner, Janice Reeves, Pat Stamps

When a student comes in with a sore throat, rash or other ailment, Students Health Services, located in McFarland Health Services Building, is there to help them. A professional team of nurses and health practitioners are there to treat minor illness and refer more serious cases to local doctors or the student's private physician.

Student Health Services Staff

Student Health Services

Student Organizations and Community Service



The Office of Student Organizations and Community Services is headed up by Maggie Prugh. The office provides programs and services for all registered MTSU student organizations. It also assists with registering new organizations and updating existing groups. Students looking to join a campus organization are encouraged to see what MTSU has to offer. MTSU has more than 200 registered student organizations with types including honor societies, fraternities/sororities, professional organizations, sports clubs/teams, political groups and human interest groups. The office also provides a variety of opportunities for students to give back to their community. Resources available through the office include an extensive database of agencies in the Rutherford County area including contact names, phone numbers and a brief description of the community organization and its needs. Events sponsored by this office include Alternative Spring Break, the community service Council, the volunteer fair, Up 'Til Dawn, Make a Difference Day and campus/ highway cleanups.

Above: Maggie Prugh, director of student organizations and community service
Right: Maggie Prugh, far left, and Gina Poff, far right, present Student Affairs awards to students Courtney Huckabay (left) and Kristen Lovett. Huckabay won the OSCAR award, and Lovett was presented with the Golden Globe of Service award.

June Anderson Women's Center

Through workshops, performances, conferences, lectures and support groups, the June Anderson Women's Center highlights and celebrates women's achievements and provides access to information and services for women in a safe and inclusive environment. Personal counseling is available for women students dealing with depression, stress, abuse, sexual harassment or other women-identified issues. The JAWC supports individuals, departments and organizations planning activities on women or gender and supports the academic mission of the university through access to its lending library of books, journals, videotapes and resource and referral files.

Top: The June Anderson Women's Center Staff
Left: Candace Rosovsky, director of the JAWC
Above: Carrie Hawk, JAWC graduate assistant, takes a break from the paperwork on her desk.

Up 'Til Dawn

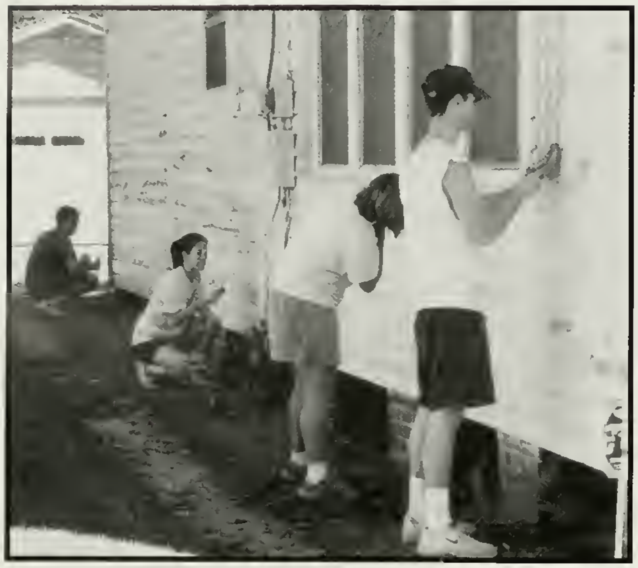
Taking place from 8:00 p.m. on Feb. 23rd and running until 8:00 a.m. on Feb. 24, Up 'Til Dawn is a 12-hour fundraising event benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Middle Tennessee State University is the second university in the nation to participate in this event. The event, which is held at the Recreation Center, is packed with sporting events, games, live entertainment and free food. Participants also get the opportunity to meet patients of St. Jude's that are being helped by the money raised.

All photos by Elisa Fisk

Above: St. Jude's volunteers stand in front of the KUC trying to woo and inform potential participants for Up 'Til Dawn.
Right: Members of Alpha Chi Omega take a break from Up 'Til Dawn to pose for a group picture.

Above: Up 'Til Dawn participants take part in the team spirit game competition.
Left: Up 'Til Dawn participants make cards for patients at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
Below: The participants applaud a former patient of St. Jude at the opening ceremony of Up 'Til Dawn held in the State Farm Lecture Hall of the Business Aerospace Building.

Christian Student Center



Jesus is my
ROCK
& He ROLLS
My blues away!

Student Publications

Student Publications office staff: Director Jenny Crouch, Accounts Clerk Brenda Denney, Patience Cohee, Alita Graves Sparks

Middle Tennessee State University's Student Publications Department publishes the student newspaper, yearbook and literary magazine. The department offers students a variety of job opportunities including reporting, creative writing, advertising sales and promotions, photography, art and graphic production of each publication. There is a place for all students who have some interest in participating with Sidelines, the newspaper; Midlander, the yearbook; and Collage, the creative magazine.

Student Publications adverstising staff: Kristopher Jones, Jenny McCart, Stacy House, Erin Pauls. Not Pictured: Advertising Manager Suzanne Franklin, Paul Sternberg, Nick Fowler, Allison Pruett

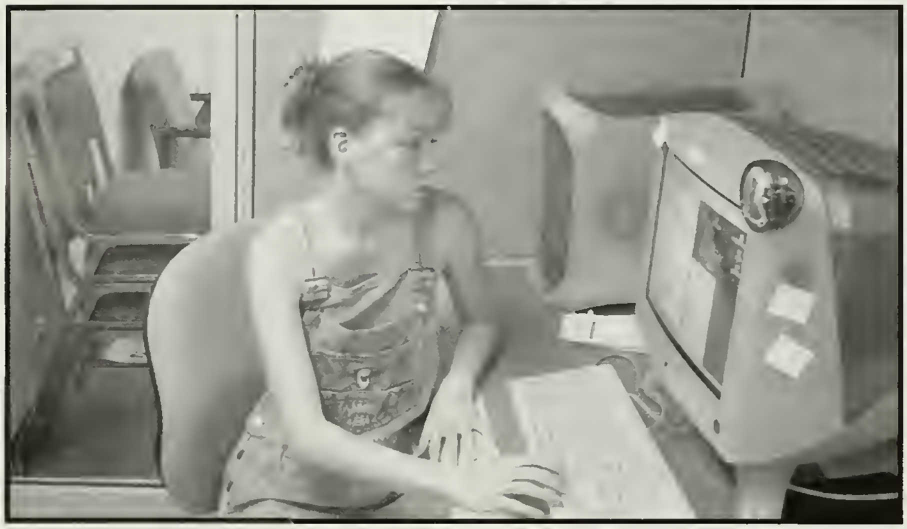
collage

Collage is the literary arts branch of Student Publications. Produced each fall and spring semester, the magazine includes short fiction, nonfiction, poetry, photography, art and essays. Students are encouraged to submit entries to Collage. The staff works hard to prepare a magazine which is graphically creative and is a showcase of the best work MTSU students have to offer.

Above: Prose editor Denny McBride, Poetry Editor Maya Nitis, Editor Nathalie Mornu
Left: Collage designer Amie Leeking shows her involvement goes beyond the magazine by participating in a protest in front of Keatley University Center.

Sidelines

Sidelines is the student newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University and is printed three times each week during the fall and spring semesters and once each week during the summer semester. Students are solely responsible for the news and advertising content of the publication. The newspaper serves as a major source of news and information for and about MTSU, from a students perspective. The readership is defined as the university community which includes students, faculty, administrators, staff and the Murfreesboro residents who have daily contact with the university.



Top left: Assistant copy editor Leslie Fike works hard at editing a news story.
Top right: Shawn Whitsell ponders whether should write a story or take his dinner break.
Left: Fall and Spring Editor in Chief James Evans
Right: James Evans, Courtney Huckabay and Raymond Hutzler take their break while planning out the next day's issue.

SIDELINES

Summer 2000 Staff

Angela White	Editor in Chief
James Evans	Managing Editor
R. Colin Fly	News Editor
Keith Ryan Cartwright	Opinions Edior
Jessica Norton	Photo Editor
Raymond Hutzler	Designer
Melissa Jones	Designer

Fall 2000 Staff

Fall 2000 Editorial Staff

James Evans	Editor in Chief
Angela White	Managing Editor
Raymond Hutzler	Design Editor
Wesley Bush	News Editor
Turner Hutchens	Associate News Editor
Rebecca Pickering	Assistant News Editor
Shawn Whitsell	Opinions Editor
Courtney Huckabay	Features Editor
Robin Wallace	Flash Editor
R. Colin Fly	Sports Editor
Jessica Norton	Photo Editor
Keith Ryan Cartwright	Copy Editor
Jennifer Terry	Copy Editor
Melissa Jones	News Designer
Tim Stelmach	Sports Designer
Sherry G. Wilson	Flash Designer

Spring 2001 Staff

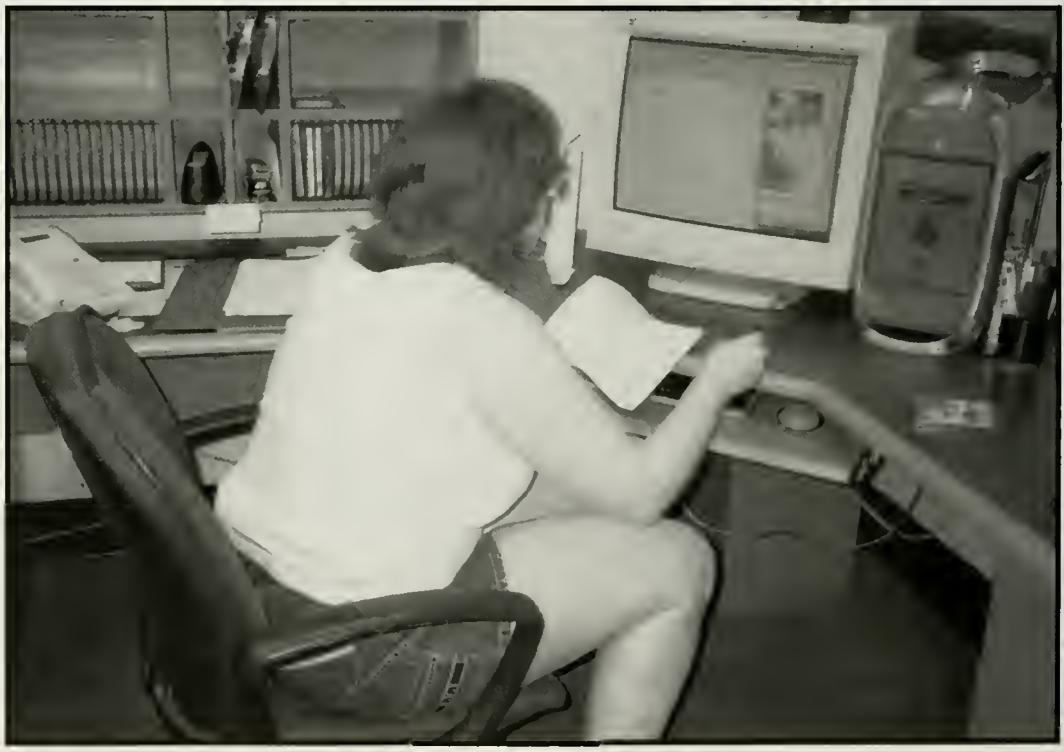
Spring 2001 Editorial Staff

James Evans	Editor in Chief
Courtney Huckabay	Managing Editor
Raymond Hutzler	Managing Editor - Design
Rebecca Pickering	News Editor
Pam Hudgens	Assistant News Editor
Shawn Whitsell	Opinions Editor
Brian Bartley	Features Editor
Leslie Carol Boehms	Flash Editor
R. Colin Fly	Sports Editor
J.P. Plant	Assistant Sports Editor
Matthew Starling	Chief Photographer
Vickie Gibson	Copy Editor
Leslie Fike	Assistant Copy Editor
Angela White	Online Editor
Melissa Burhorn	Features Designer
Carey Coker	Sports Designer
Carla Rhodes	Opinions Designer
Paul Sternberg	Flash Designer

Midlander

Above: Kristy Dalrymple, Rebecca Reeves, Matthew Starling, Susan McMahan, Jennifer Neas, Rob Evans

Left: Graduate assistant Susan McMahan edits a story for the academics section of the yearbook.



Left: Rebecca Reeves (left) and Jennifer Neas take a break from designing the Greeks section to register for their classes.
Below left: Rob Evans works diligently to complete a spread in the Student Affairs section.
Below: Photographer Matthew Starling asks whether he is expected to complete all the photo assignments in a week,

Freshman Forum

Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity

Circle K

Beta Beta Beta Biological Honors Society

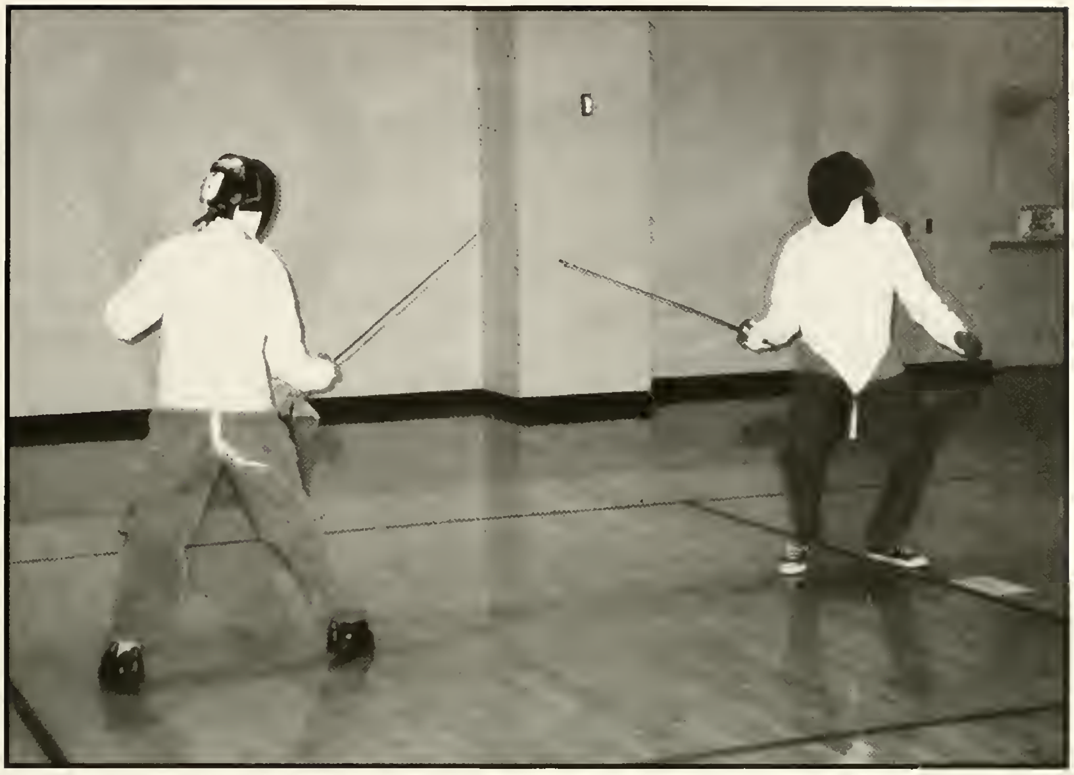
L-R: Rebecca Frye, Matt Graham, Adivsor Dr. Pdgett Kelly, Dwayne Coleman, President Melissa Sowder

Baptist Student Union

Sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Concord Baptist Association, the BSU is a ministry dedicated to furthering the work of Christ and meeting students' spiritual needs. In addition to the regular weekly activities, there are a number of other opportunities for service, ministry and fun. Fall and spring conventions, retreats, concerts, mission trips, summer missions, movies, parties and many more events keep the activity level around the BSU running high.

International Student Coffee Hour

Fencing Club



The MTSU Fencing Club was established in 1997 and currently meets one night a week. Membership is open to all those interested. Membership in the club each semester includes the use of equipment, group lessons and, for the more advanced student, private lessons. Club members participate in official competitions sponsored by the United State Fencing Association here in the state of Tennessee and across the nation. The equipment can be checked out for those wanting to participate in competitions.

Student Ambassadors

Front Row: Autumne Bailey, Latonya Irons, Angie Boyd, Lisa Poepsel (president), Adraine Bond, Emily Zeringue, Laurie Cook, Susan Wilson. Jessica Heim, Ashley Loflin.

Middle Row: Nicky Russell, Mandy Coatney (secretary), Jocelyn Howard, kerry Lane, Beth Franklin, Michelle Gadson, Julie Braxton, Lauren Adkins, Heather Witcher, Lauren Wright, Sarah Neil Pilkinton.

Back Row: Bobby Toy, Gary Wiser, Marcus Washington, Thomas Parker, Eddie Linville (vice president), Courtenay Isabell, James Mason, Reggie Thomas (treasurer).

The Middle Tennessee State University Student Ambassadors are an integral part of the university. They serve as official hosts and hostesses for the university at presidential, alumni, donor, university and athletic functions. This group has been an active campus organization since1978 and has served under the direction of the Alumni Relations Office since 1997. Student Ambassadors are provided with leadership, networking and scholarship opportunities. MTSU Student Ambassadors are known for their school spirit and winning attitudes! The group is comprised of 25-30 members who are selected annually for a one-year term. The Alumni Association provides scholarship benefits to elected Student Ambassadors each semester.

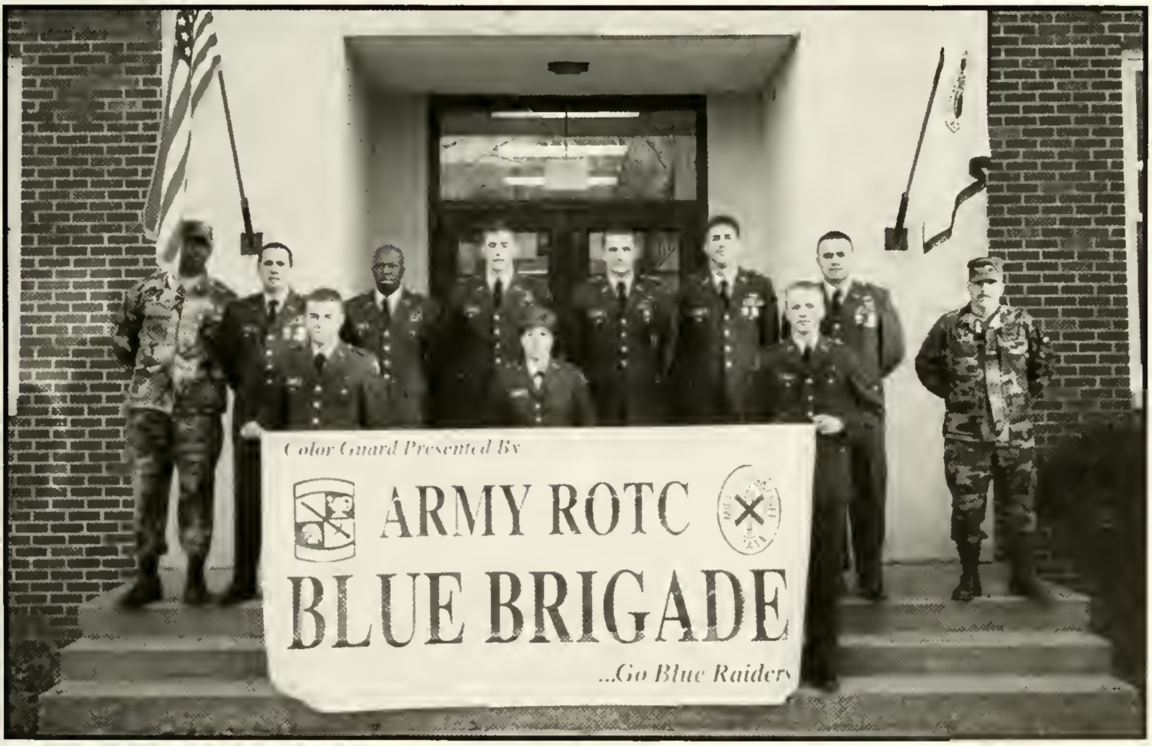
Golden Key National Honor Society

Front row: Rhonda Neitzel (treasurer), Randi McNeil (secretary), Paul Bonner (president), Barb Kellgren (vice president). Back row (new honorary members): John Andy McCollum (head football coach), Jenny Tenpenny Crouch (adviser and director of Student Publications), Bill Campbell (Wesley Foundation campus minister), Victor Montemeyer (professor of physics and astronomy)

Golden Key Spring 2000 Inductees

ROTC

ARMY ROTC
FORREST HALL


Color Guard Presented By
ARMY ROTC
BLUE BRIGADE
...Go Blue Raiders

Student Awards

All photos by Kristy Dalrymple

Right: Chevonne Wrenn, senior public relations major, was presented the James E. Walker President's Award for the student who best exhibits superior achievements in campus leadership and contributions to the campus community. MTSU President R. Eugene Smith presented the award to Wrenn, who is a Franklin, Tenn. native.

Below: Chris Montague received the Robert C. LaLance Jr. Achievment Award for his ability to contribute to the community while overcoming difficulties and maintaining high academic standards. LaLance presented the award to Montague, who is a senior computer science major involved in several community outreach programs on campus including "Up 'Till Dawn," CUSTOMS, America Reads, and the university mentoring program.

Below right: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Barbara Haskew, right, presented the Barbara S. Haskew Provost's Award to Ashley Loflin of Salisbury, N.C. The award is given to the student who best demonstrates academic achievment by maintaining a minimum 3.5 GPA and active membership in scholarly clubs. Loflin graduated from Oakland High School in 1997.

Financial Aid

David Hutton, director of financial aid

The purpose of Student Financial Aid is to provide assistance to qualified students who would otherwise find it difficult or impossible to attend Middle Tennessee State University. The student and his/her family have the primary responsibility for financing a college education. However, largely through federally-funded programs, students may receive assistance when it is determined they or their family cannot meet the cost of a post-secondary education. Need is defined to be the difference between the cost of attending MTSU and the calculated family contribution toward this cost. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the document from which the family contribution is calculated. Need-based financial aid comes in the form of loans, grants, and employment. Loans are borrowed money that have to be repaid over a period of time, usually after the student leaves school. Grants are gifts that do not have to be repaid. Work-study is money you must earn by working at a part-time job.

Greek Life

Photos by Elisa Fisk

The students involved in MTSU's numerous Greek organizations represent an active percentage of the student body. Though they wear different letters, the fraternities and sororities strive for a common goal - to spread sisterhood and brotherhood while helping others around them.

2001

Photos by Elisa Fisk

Top left: Members of Alpha Delta Pi welcome a recruit into the group.
Top right: Old and new members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon celebrate a successful recruitment week.
Above left: Greek Life Director Victor Felts discusses Greek opportunities with a new student at a summer 2000 CUSTOMS session.
Right: Alpha Omicron Pi members stand ready to greet new recruits.

Sororties, fraternities recruit

By James Evans

On a Monday afternoon in the fall, a group of women gathered on the Cummings hall patio to determine the course of their college experiences.

Within the crowd, the eager ladies nervously ripped open pieces of white paper. In the next moment, the scene was filled with screams, group hugs and laughter.

It was bid day for the six national sorority chapters at MTSU, and these young ladies had just found out whether they had been chosen to join the sorority of their choice.

Inside Cummings, the newly selected members were greeted with songs and chants from the veteran members, and all that could be seen were proud smiles and joyous tears.

Just a week earlier, interested men had gone through the same process with the 11 national fraternities on campus.

This year, Greek membership soared to new heights. Sororities recruited the largest new member class in MTSU history, and fraternities recruited their largest new member class in 12 years, according to Victor Felts, Greek Life director.

"We think with more emphasis being placed on grades and retention and less on the 'Animal House' -image of sororities and fraternities, our Greek organizations are attractive to a broader range of students," Felts said.

"We also wanted them to emphasize their philanthropic work during the recruitment period, so that perspective members would know there is more to the Greek organi-

Photos by Elisa Fisk

Above left: Chi Omega members and their Bid Day photographer await the arrival of their new recruits.
Above: New and old members of Kappa Sigma celebrate the acceptance of new members.
Left: Old members of Sigma Chi pose for the first time with new recruits.

record numbers of members

zations than socializing," Felts continued.

The National Panhellenic Council and Interfraternity Council implemented changes in the vocabulary used. Instead of the week before bid day being called Rush, it has been changed to Recruitment. For sororities, the parties that take place during Recruitment week are now called events; and pledges are now referred to as new members. Open parties are still held for men interested in the Greek system; but prospects must be invited to attend "smokers."

"This is all a move to get away from those negative connotations," said Meagan Frazier, president of the local Panhellenic Council.

Frazier also echoed Felts' sentiments, saying she believes that more women came out this year because all of the sororities tried to emphasize the sisterhood and philanthropical aspects of sorority life as opposed to the party side.

"These are the things that young people are interested in," Frazier said, "not just coming to school to party."

Frazier did say that the slight increase in the enrollment of the student body may have had a little to do with it, but not entirely.

There is also a local sorority—Phi Chi—that also recruits new members but is not allowed to recruit during the same time as the national sororities because of Panhellenic rules.

Greek Life

Intermurals were a big event in which most fraternities participated. The activity was so well liked because brothers from one fraternity got to know the brothers of different fraternities.

Bid Day was anticipated by many Greek communities because it gave them a chance to welcome new members into their family.

All photos by Elisa Fisk

Tailgate parties were enjoyed before every football game. These events were often held in the parking lot beside the stadium.

Alpha Gamma Rho proudly display their Homecoming float. Building floats took many hours and alot of helpful volunteers.

New fraternity brothers show their excitement on the knoll after being announced brothers of their chosen fraternity. A great sense of pride went along with being chosen by a particular fraternity.

Beta Theta Pi freshmen stop after a fraternity mixer to take a picture. Freshman brothers held great pride in being involved with different fraternity events.

Exemplifying school spirit, members of the Greek community dance on their Homecoming float during the parade.

Two sorority sisters encourage each other before the Chili Cook-off and Fight Song start. It helped during the competition to know that all of your fellow sorority sisters were backing you up.

Alpha Kappa Alpha

take back the night!!

Alpha Kappa Alpha paticipates in the campus wide "Take Back the Night" rally. Sororities were often active in events in which supported a cause they strongly believed in.

Alpha Kappa Alpha

AKA

Founded: 1908

Chapter: Eta Psi

Colors: Salmon Pink and
Apple Green

Motto: "By merit and culture."

President: Ashley Williams

Vice President: Bethany Brent

Secretary: Michele Clark

Treasurer: La Trina Mims

* We were installed at MTSU on October 27, 1973.

* Spring 2001 Semester - We have 9 members.

Alpha Kappa Alpha enjoyed being involved in activities during the Alcohol Awareness Week.

Delta Sigma Theta

Delta Sigma Theta

Founded: January 13, 1913

Chapter: Iota Tau

Colors: Crimson and Cream

Motto: "Shaped to purpose, committed to people."

President: Myra McGhee

Vice President: Rhiannon Wilson

Secretary: Tiffany Hilliard

Treasurer: Carmen Mitchell

* We were installed at MTSU on January 19, 1973.

* Spring 2001 Semester - We have 15 members.

ΔΣΤ

Alpha Omicron Pi

Big and Little Sisters enjoy a great time together after the Bid Day activities. Big Sisters willingly helped their Little Sisters in times of difficulties with campus life.

Alpha Omicron Pi

Founded: January 2, 1897

Chapter: Rho Omicron

Color: Cardinal

President: Tasha Bandy

Vice President: Stacey Emery and Melissa Batts

Secretary: Tina Tomilson and Kriti Allen

Treasurer: Crystal Cox

All photos by Elisa Fisk

ΑΟΠ

Sisters of AOΠ cheer on the Blue Raiders during the 2000 - 2001 football season.

Kerry, former president, hugs a fellow sister at Bid Day 2000.

Chi Omega

ΧΩ

All photos by Elisa Fis

Chi Omega welcomes its new members by holding a party in their honor. This reassured the new pledges about their decision to join a sorority.

Chi Omega

Founded: April 5, 1895

Chapter: Zeta Theta

Colors: Cardinal and Straw

Motto: "Hellenic Culture and Christian Ideals."

President: Emma May

Vice President: Starr Wallace

Secretary: Shelly Anderson

Treasurer: Kelly Williams

* We were installed at MTSU on March 8, 1969.

* Spring 2001 Semester - We have 110 members.

Sorority sisters enjoyed good times with each other and treasured the friendships made while taking part in volunteer work.

Sisters always counted on each other for support and strength. When there was a problem, one was always there for the other.

Former president Hayley Maples hugs a couple of her sorority sisters, while they remember the past events that they took action in together. Graduating and moving on was very hard for older sisters.

Kappa Delta

Kappa Delta

Founded: October 23, 1897

Chapter: Delta Pi

Colors: Olive Green and Pearl White

Motto: "Let us strive for that which is honorable, beautiful and highest."

President: Laurel Petty

Vice President: Mandy Coatney

Secretary: Ashley Wells

Treasurer: Beth Scarbrough

* We were installed at MTSU on March 15, 1969.

* Spring 2001 Semester - We have 91 members.

Lori Dobbs hugs her little sister Abby Arnold at the Bid Day 2000 ceremony.

Emily Collins, Keri Braswell, Lindsey Penn and Abby Arnold take time to relax from volunteer activities in the ball pit at a local McDonald's.

Intermural basketball was one of the many activities that Kappa Delta was involved in around campus.

Beth Scarbrough and Jenny Doerflinger are caught off guard with full mouths. Haven't you ever tried to put 10 marshmallows in your mouth at one time?

Katherine Moss hugs her Kappa Delta sister.

Delta Zeta

Delta Zeta

Founded: October 24, 1902

Chapter: Iota Iota

Colors: Pink and Green

Mascot: Turtle

President: Ann Arians

Vice President: Tiffany Bivens

Secretary: Barbara Gardener

Treasurer: Sara Plott

* We were installed at MTSU in 1969.

* Spring 2001 Semester - We have 68 members

Upperclassmen enjoyed showing the new pledges how Greek life worked and how to handle their first year of college.

One of the more fun activities of Rush is the assigning of a big sister to a little sister.

Photos by Elisa Fisk

Photos by Erika Pryor

Ravin Lawrence participates in the Pro Bate Step Show with a chant. The Pro Bate Show was to introduce the new memebers of the sorority to the public.

Zeta Phi Beta

Zeta Phi Beta

Founded: January 16, 1920

Chapter: Mu Theta

Colors: Royal Blue and Pure White

Motto: "Scholarship, service, sisterly love and finer womanhood."

President: Stephanie Busch

Vice President: Ravin Lawrence

Secretary: Khalilah King

Treasurer: Shana Adams

* We were installed at MTSU September 17, 1977.

* Spring 2001 Semester - We have 16 members.

ΖΦΒ

Greek Life

Zeta Tau Alpha

Z T A

A '70s mixer was hosted by Zeta Tau Alpha and Pi Kappa Alpha. Sororities liked being able to hold different functions with other Greeks.

Joking around with sorority sisters was a favorite past time in most Greek organizations. This helped ease some of the stress felt from everyday classes.

Zeta Tau Alpha

Founded: October 15, 1898

Chapter: Iota Chi

Colors: Turquoise Blue and Steel Gray

Motto: "Seek the noblest."

President: Kelly Nadjkovic

Vice President: Cari Hertlage

Secretary: Meredith Edington

Treasurer: Leslie McMahon

* We were installed at MTSU in March 1989.

* Spring 2001 Semester - We have 52 members.

Michelle Bunch, Amber Carpenter, Shelly Nixon and Erin Patterson gather with Sigma Phi Epsilon at the "Paint Your Date" mixer.

Alpha Delta Pi

Α Δ Π

Friends gather together at Bid Day 2000 for another fun year of sorority activities. A sorority is like a family to many girls that were far away from home. Therefore, life long friendships are often made.

All photos by Elisa Fisk

Alpha Delta Pi

Founded: May 15, 1851.

Chapter: Epsilon Tau

Colors: Azure Blue and White

Mascot: Lion

Flower: Woodland Violet

Motto: "We live for each other."

President: Hilary Barkley

Vice President: Tara York

Secretary: Ginny Boyett

Treasurer: Ashley Lawson

* We were installed at MTSU on March 1, 1969.

* Spring 2001 Semester - We have 111 members.

Flowers and the like were kinds of presents received for those participating in Rush and Bid Day.

Bid Day was a time to rekindle flames of friendships lost over the summer. It also helped bring comfort to new pledges that were getting used to life at a new school.

Greek Life

CONCESSIONS
MENU
ROW 3
ΠΚΑ ΧΩ ΣΚ PRESENTS
GRADUATION CENTER
ΔΣΘ
ΩΨΦ
ΣΑΕ

Greek Life

All Sing

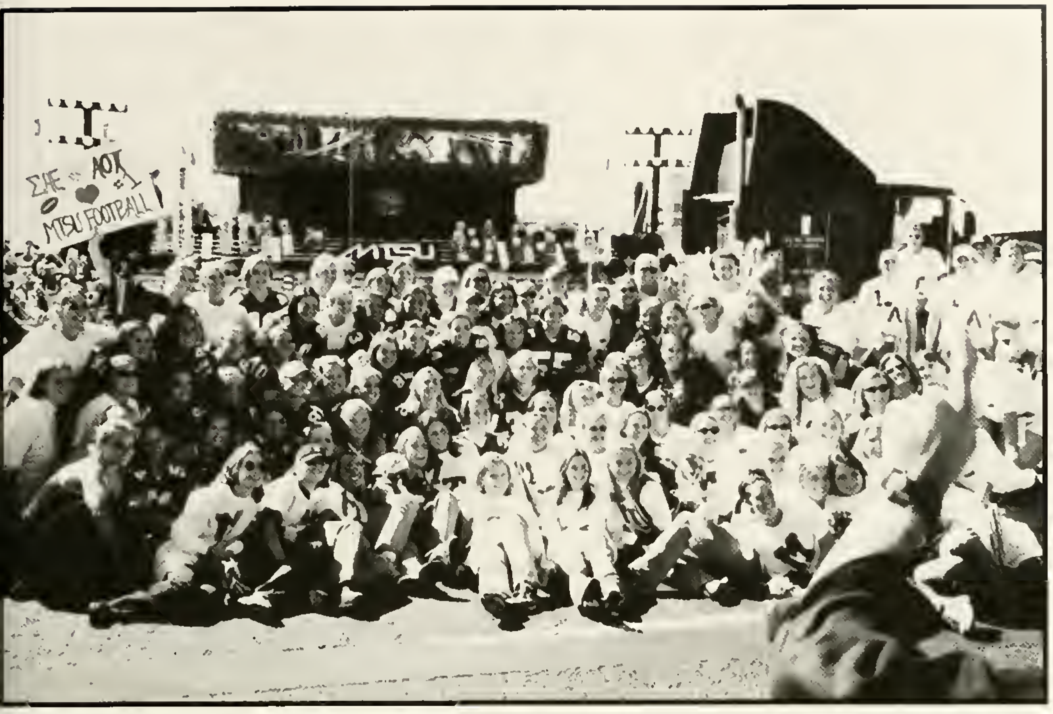
All photos by Elisa Fisk

Greek Life

Alpha Omicron Pi sisters gather together before the fight song competition to show support for each other during the competition.

A few of the gentlemen from Beta Theta Pi assemble in front of the James Union Building for a Homecoming celebration.

Sigma Phi Epsilon brothers take a short break during the middle of an intramural football game. Sometimes the physical activity put fraternity brothers in the position to take a breather.



Alpha Omicron Pi and Sigma Alpha Epsilon combine to take a group picture before the big Homecoming game.

Sisters join in a group hug after a football game. Enjoying time in fellowship was a favorite pass time of most sororities.

Two Sigma Alpha Epsilon brothers wave their flag at the football games. These were prime times to show spirit for the fraternity.

Sigma Nu sophomores are very grateful to no longer be freshmen. With this change in status also came many new privileges.

Alpha Gamma Rho

Alpha Gamma Rho

Founded: 1904

Chapter: Beta Theta

Colors: Green and Yellow

Motto: "To make better men and through them a broader and better agriculture."

President: Terry Moran

Vice President: Josh Laws

Treasurer: Matt Melhicorre

* We were installed at MTSU in 1976.

* Spring 2001 Semester - We have 40 members.

ΑΓΡ

Alpha Gamma Rho officers.

ΑΦΑ

Alpha Phi Alpha

Photos by Elisa Fisk

Left: Miss Black and Gold Ashley Brooks poses with a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, which sponsors the annual pageant.
Above: Alphas work at an information table to get the word out to prospective members.

Alpha Phi Alpha

Founded: December 4, 1906

Chapter: Kappa Xi

Colors: Black and Gold

Motto: "First of all servants of all."

President: James Mason

Vice President: Terrence Morris

Secretary: Courtney Isabel

Treasurer: Bret Fitchpatric

* We were installed at MTSU on March 25, 1975.

* Spring 2001 Semester - We have 19 members.

Alpha Tau Omega

Alpha Tau Omega

Founded: September 1865

Chapter: Eta Nu

Colors: Azure Blue and Gold

Motto:

President: Scott Hurt

Vice President:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

* We were installed at MTSU in 1970.

* Spring 2001 Semester - We have

Fraternity flags are an important symbol for the brothers. It symbolizes their loyalty and honor to that particular fraternity.

ΑΤΩ

An ATΩ brother proudly displays his trophy from the 2000 Pike Fights. He was the overall winner.

Alpha Tau Omega officers.

The Alpha Tau Omega brothers enjoyed participating in intramural sports. It made way for bonds with the new pledges as well as teamwork towards a common goal.

Beta Theta Pi

Nick Patterson, James Sperance, Kyle Weatherly and Charlie Lowery enjoy spending time at a party after a big football game. Fraternity members liked to hang out with their brothers after big school events.

Beta Theta Pi

Founded: August 8, 1839

Chapter: Epsilon Theta

Colors: Red and Blue

President: Steve Pominville

Vice President: Ryan Freeze and Michael Schultz

Secretary: Kai Thietje

Treasurer: Talmadge Kirkland

* Spring 2001 Semester - We have 68 members.

ΒΘΠ

Κ Α Ψ

Kappa Alpha Psi

Kappa Alpha Psi

Founded: December 2, 1972

Chapter: Eta Gamma

President: Joshua Conway

Vice President: Delvin Caerthers

Secretary: Paul Strickland

Kappa Alpha

Two Kappa Alpha brothers relax on a nice day in front of their fraternity house. The fraternity house was often a safe-haven for students to get away from the everyday stresses of college life.

Kappa Alpha

Founded: December 21, 1865

Chapter: Delta Lambda

Colors: Crimson and Old Gold

Motto: "God and Woman."

President: Jeremy McGuire

Vice President: Matt Bryson

Secretary: Dustin Roberson

Treasurer: Scott Powell

* We were installed at MTSU on February 14, 1969.

* Spring 2001 Semester - We have 75 members.

Kappa Alpha officers.

K A

The KA brothers took a trip to Nashville to watch the Titans play. Road trips were enjoyed by many fraternity brothers as a time to get off campus and hang out with friends.

Fraternity brothers take time to mingle at a party. This party was a great time to have fun and also to meet new people, as well as getting to know the pledges better.

Kappa Sigma

Kappa Sigma

Founded: December 10, 1869

Chapter: Kappa Iota

Colors: Emerald Green, Scarlet, and White

Motto: "The ideals we pursue determine who we are and what we will become."

President: Micah Cruse

Vice President: Gere Beason

Secretary: Bryan Smith

Treasurer: Brandon Pickens

* We were installed at MTSU on March 8, 1969.

* Spring 2001 Semester - We have 64 members.

Kappa Sig brothers enjoy time together on a road trip. Much was learned about individuals on long road trips.

ΚΣ

Omega Psi Phi

Omega Psi Phi and Sigma Alpha Epsilon gather after a canned food drive party at the SAE house. Fraternities liked to have fun while doing beneficial projects for the community.

Darrell Aruin and Jason Alexander participate in a show that was put on by Omega Psi Phi at the Opryland Hotel. Community involvement was often a positive thing in which fraternities got active.

Omega Psi Phi

Founded: November 17, 1911

Chapter: Mu Zeta

Colors: Purple and Gold

Motto: "Friendship is essential to the soul."

President: Derrick Wilson

Vice President: Emerson Williams

Secretary: Lish Burgess

Treasurer: Andre Williams

* We were installed at MTSU on April 25, 1993

* Spring 2001 Semester - We have 13 members.

ΩΨΦ

Phi Beta Sigma

Phi Beta Sigma

Founded: January 9, 1941

Chapter: Iota Mu

Colors: Blue and White

Motto: "Culture for service,
Service for humanity."

President: Dwayne Douglas

Vice President: Willie Nelson III

Secretary: Chris Montague

Treasurer: Clarence McFerren

ΦΒΣ

A favorite past time for fraternities is to participate in was road trips. Bonding occurred on these trips and a family environment was established.

Phi Beta Sigma officers.

ΣΧ

Sigma Chi

Sigma Chi brothers begin bonding as a family on their first day together. Bid Day opened up many doors for meeting new friends and welcoming old ones back.

Sigma Chi

Founded: June 28, 1855

Chapter: Eta Gamma

Colors: Blue and Old Gold

Motto: "In Hoc Signo Vinces."

President: Brett Edwards

Vice President: Robbie Janson

Secretary: Bryan Nale

Treasurer: Wes Marsh

* We were installed at MTSU on March 30, 1970.

* Spring 2001 Semester - We have 38 members.

Pi Kappa Alpha

Pi Kappa Alpha brothers celebrate after a stressful Rush season. Bid Day and Rush are a trying time for new pledges as well as old members.

Pi Kappa Alpha

Founded: March 1, 1868

Chapter: Eta Zeta

President: Allen Mitchell

*We were installed at MTSU in 1969.

Two Pi Kappa Alpha brothers catch their breath and let the endorphins kick in after a strenuous game of football. Intramurals were a time to meet other people as well as get a good workout.

Pi Kappa Alpha officers.

Π

Κ

Α

Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Founded: March 9, 1856

Chapter: TN Beta

Colors: Royal Purple and Old Gold

Motto: "The True Gentlemen."

President: Jon Chaney

Vice President: Jeff Wyatt

Secretary: Jason Schick

Treasurer: Patrick Winningham

* We were installed at MTSU on December 13, 1969.

*Spring 2001 Semester - We have 75 members.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon officers.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon brothers take a break from walking the dog to talk about college life. Catching up on others' activities was another favorite past time for the fraternity brothers.

ΣΑΕ

Fraternity brothers rejoice after a victorious game of intramural football. The competitive side of many men came out during the time of intermural games.

Fraternity brothers celebrate with pledges on Bid Day after it was announced who was accepted into Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Much excitement was shown when pledges were selected by their favorite fraternity.

Sigma Nu

Sigma Nu brothers celebrate the victory of being accepted into their chosen fraternity. A great sense of pride was felt when a brother was accepted.

Sigma Nu

Founded: January 1, 1869

Chapter: Theta Iota

President: Jason Goforth

Vice President: Brennan Swing

Secretary: Doug Baucom

Treasurer: Wes Vonkanel

* We were installed at MTSU in 1970.

A Sigma Nu brother shows his school spirit during Homecoming. Fraternities liked to get involved with school-related activities.

ΣN

Two Sigma Nu brothers join in the festivities of their fraternity's back-to-school party. This was one way fraternities eased the anxiety of coming back to school.

Sigma Nu brothers not only participated in intramurals but also had their own cheerleaders. Fraternities enjoyed cheering each other along in many different activities.

Sigma Nu brothers proudly fill their Homecoming float.to overflowing. Building the various floats took much time and patience, but was very rewarding in the end.

Sigma Phi Epsilon

Sigma Phi Epsilon brothers work at the Heart Walk sign-in stand. Many Greek organizations enjoyed doing volunteer work to help out the local community.

Sigma Phi Epsilon

ΣΦΕ

Founded: 1902

Chapter: TN Theta

Colors: Purple and Red

Motto: "Virtue, diligence, and brotherly love."

President: Frank Fuentes

Vice President: Neal Hilton

Secretary: Mike Midgett

Treasurer: Derek Bryant

* We were installed at MTSU on March 12, 1977.

* Spring 2001 Semester - We have 35 members.

Blocking for the defense, a Sigma Phi Epsilon brother gets into the soccer game. Intramural games were a time to forget about everything else and just play some ball.

Tau Kappa Epsilon

New pledges gather on the Knoll to show their anticipation of the coming year. Pledges were often involved in fraternity activities as well as their school work.

Tau Kappa Epsilon

Founded: January 10, 1899

Chapter: Sigma Omicron

Colors: Cherry and Gray

Motto: "Not for rank, wealth, or honor, but for personal wealth and character."

President: Michael Ceccarelli

Vice President: Nathan Lux

Secretary: Michael Guidotti

Treasurer: Michael Carlson

* We were installed at MTSU on May 5, 1989.

* Spring 2001 Semester - We have 22 members.

TKE

Greek Row

Sigma Alpha Epsilon House

Sigma Chi House

Kappa Sigma House

Sigma Nu House

Kappa Alpha House

Alpha Gamma Rho House

Pi Kappa Alpha House

Beta Theta Pi House

Right: Members of Kappa Sigma donate their time to help with registration at Murfreesboro's American Heart Association Heart Walk.
Below: A member of Alpha Delta Pi takes a pie for charity as part of the annual AO-Pie-in-the-Face fundraiser.
Below right: Members of Omega Psi Phi and Sigma Alpha Epsilon pose with their collections after a can food drive party at the SAE house on Greek Row.

Greek Life about making friends,

Ask the average student what they think about the Greek system or what being Greek means, and most of them will tell you: "All they do is party!"

Despite the "Animal House" image that fraternities and sororities have, the Greek system is far more involved and complex than the weekly "drink-til-you-drop" Saturday night get-together.

Many people also think that all Greeks are the same type of person; that they have a collective identity.

However, a seasoned fraternity member and a recent sorority pledge think the image that Greeks have is far from the truth. And while they joined their respective organizations for vastly different reasons, many of their sentiments about the Greek tradition are the same.

Derrick Wilson says he joined Omega Psi Phi because he is carrying on a family tradition. Jenny McCart wanted to get involved with campus activities and felt a sorority was a good way to get involved.

Derrick's father was an Omega at the University of Tennessee-Martin some 20-plus years ago, and "I wanted to carry on that tradition." Omegas have been on the MTSU campus since 1973 and were the first black fraternity on MTSU's campus.

Jenny said she took the time to learn what Greek organizations are really about before she decided to go through recruitment.

"I wasn't interested until I read about the Greek sororities and found out about what they were involved with.

"I wasn't involved in anything my first semester but wanted to be more involved," she said.

She said she asked some friends about their sorority and then went through spring recruitment. Jenny pledged Delta Zeta, one of MTSU's first sororities.

Being Greek is about the closeness of the members and the involvement in school activities and the community around campus, Jenny said.

take back the night!!

Above left: Zeta Tau Alpha members Michelle Bunch, Amber Carpenter, Shelly Nixon and Erin Patterson take part in the Paint Your Date Mixer held with Sigma Phi Epsilon.
Above: Members of Kappa Alpha cheer on the Tennessee Titans at Adelphia Coliseum.
Left: Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha participate in MTSU's Take Back the Night rally.

helping others - not just parties

"It's not just about partying or hazing," Derrick said. "We do community service such as the Muscular Dystrophy Association Jail-a-thon. If I hadn't been Greek, I wouldn't have done it. I wouldn't have known anything about such an event or had any reason to be involved with it.

"We (Omega Psi Phi) also sponsor the American Heart Association with fund-raisers, and we hold a lot of clothes drives and canned food drives for local charities," Derrick said.

Omega also holds a statewide essay writing contest for high school students through which students can win savings bonds.

Delta Zeta is involved with the speech and hearing clinic and holds fund-raisers to help the philanthropy.

Some members of Jenny's sorority do other volunteer activities with the Wesley Center, Boys and Girls Club of America, and other charitable organizations. "That was the attraction, being involved in things — not the partying and drinking despite what the public image is of Greeks," said Jenny.

Derrick, who is the current president of Omega, says the feeling of brotherhood is very strong in a fraternity and that members know that "when someone needs something, they know they can call on you."

Jenny said it is "24-7 support from your fellow Greek members. They are always there for you."

The traditions, the rituals and the initiation are all part of the heritage that make an organization strong, Jenny said.

"The sorority is much bigger than you are, particularly if you look at it from the national level. You're not just connected to the girls in your local chapter, but you're connected to thousands of girls across the country," she said.

Being part of the Greek system "gives you something to do besides going to class," Derrick said.

"It makes college more worthwhile," he said.

Athletics

MTSU athletics are starting to take on a character of their own. MTSU's move into the Sun Belt Conference is getting the national recognition that has been sought after for years. Soon the Blue and Lady Raiders of all sports will be a force anywhere they play!

2001

MTSU student takes a big leap Down Under

By Courtney Huckabay

Every four years, the Summer Olympics roll around and audiences are captivated by the stunning talents of so many around the globe. Kids sit in front of the TV in awe of the swimmers and runners, dreaming that one day they too might be an Olympic hero. For most kids, those dreams dwindle with age and maturity, but not for 28-year-old Andrew Owusu.

MTSU's very own graduate student is representing the country of Ghana at the Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia. Owusu made the more than16-hour flight filled with layovers to Sydney and competed for the triple jump medals.

The Olympics may be the first time Owusu has competed for such a grand title in 2000, but he is no rookie to the game. Owusu has trained for this event since he began college, and he competed in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta as well. He was a finalist in the '97 World Championships in Athens, Greece, was an eight-time All-American while at Alabama, he won the African Championship for triple jump three times in a row and ranks among the top 10 triple jumpers in the world. "Every season I give it my all," said Owusu, not giving away any of his training secrets.

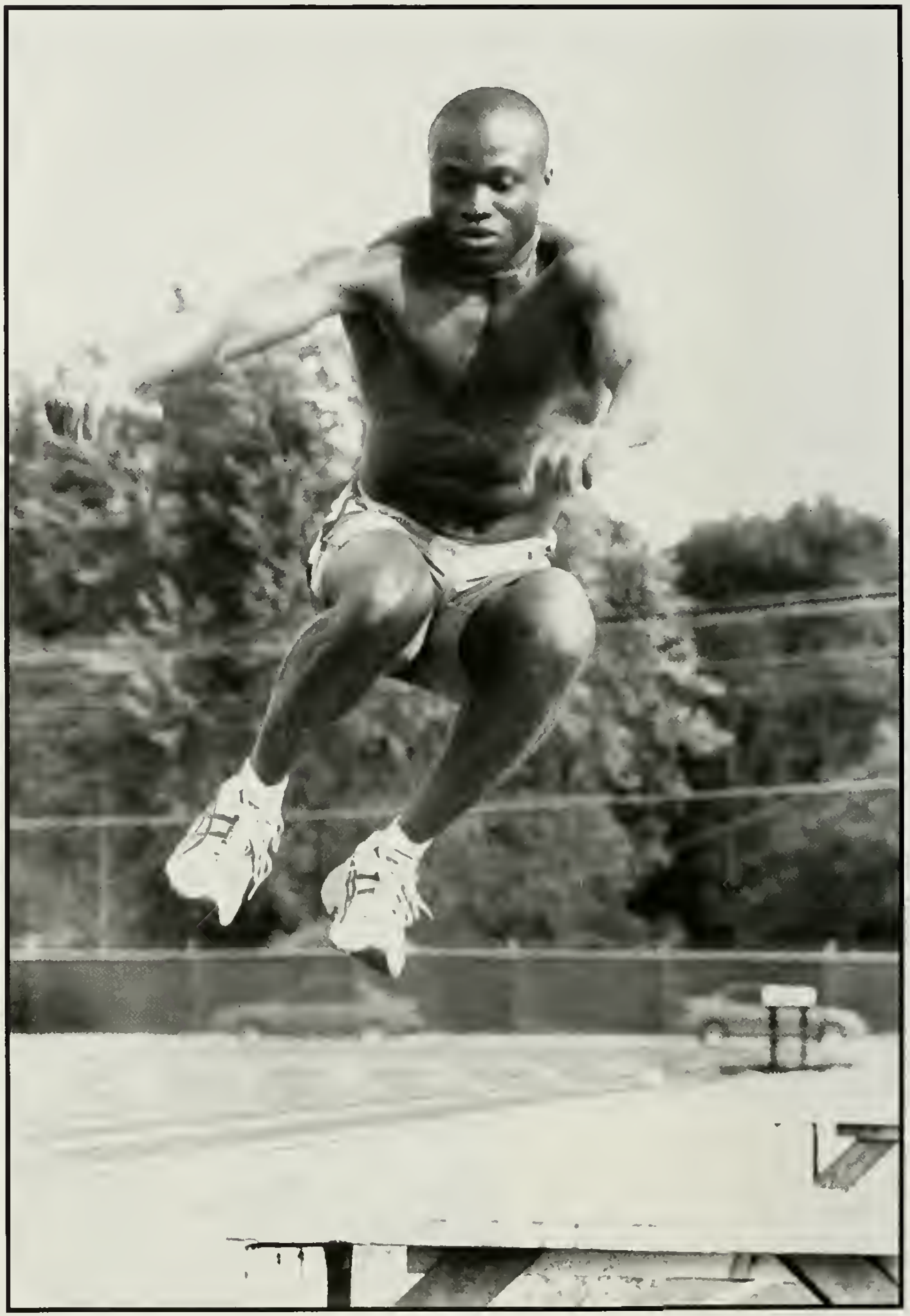


Photo by Matthew Starling

Andrew Owusu makes a practice jump before heading to the Syndey Olympics.

Owusu completed his undergraduate work at the University of Alabama and seized the opportunity to participate in the '96 Olympics. "I never thought I would make it [to the Olympics] when I started school in Alabama, but I kept working hard while I was on the track team, and I did," he said.

The second-time Olympian came to MTSU because he felt he "still had more to give to track and field." And he didn't want to give up on his education either.

"I didn't want to stay out of education," Owusu said. "I didn't think it was a positive thing to do academically." So with a little pushing from his trainer, MTSU track and field head coach Dean Hayes, Owusu decided to obtain his doctorate and keep training here.

"Andrew has a real level head," said Hayes, who was a judge for the '96 Olympics and coached an Olympic team in '88. "And he's easy to coach and work with because he wants to work hard and get better. He likes to compete, but he also knows that track isn't life – he has other goals and career ambitions. He's a real team person."

"I feel very happy here," Owusu said. "The members of the HPERs department have been very supportive of me - not just in my track efforts, but also in my life and career. Being a GTA for the HPERs department and being able to work with the best triple jump coach in the world has been so great."

Imagine knowing for a whole year that you would be going to the Olympics to see how you measure up to the best athletes in the world ... this is what Andrew has been doing since September 1999. Owusu triple jumped in the 1999 Africa Games and made the A Standard, which then automatically qualified him for the 2000 Olympics. So Owusu didn't even have to go to Ghana in order to compete in the preliminaries for a space in the Olympics, he had already had made it.

"I'm more excited than nervous, especially since I've been to Atlanta and to the World Championships twice, and I have more experience now. I'm just grateful that this opportunity was possible, and I have Coach Hayes to thank for that," he said.

When asked if the change in season had him worried, Owusu just shrugged it off. "It's spring in Australia now, so it will be cooler there than it is here. The cold affects my performance negatively, but all I can do is try to adapt to it and do my best."

Owusu also had other things on his mind during the Games, if one can believe that. Ghana nominated him for as a candidate for the International Olympic Commision Athletes Committee, a very prestigious honor. All of the Olympic Athletes vote on the candidates for the Committee, so Owusu had to make his face and name known. Although no actual campaigning is permitted, Owusu said there is nothing to stop someone from mingling and meeting new people - in other words - networking. So Andrew divided his time between jumping and shaking hands in the land down under.

"That's a very big question," Owusu answered after being asked if he wa splanning on going for gold again in four years. "You never know what'll happen between now and then. I just don't know." Owusu did say that he'd like to teach at a college later on down the road. And there's always the possibilities that the IOC could bring him. "The IOC may open other avenues for me that I may not even know of right now."

Nashville Kat player leads double-life

By Jason Cox

MTSU student Jeff Russell is a living testament to time management. He has achieved the completion of undergraduate school, played football for five professional teams and is now working towards his master's degree at MTSU. He's accomplished all this before the age of 30.

A native of Stockton, Cailf., Russell attended the University of the Pacific, playing safety for the Tigers.

After graduating with a B.A. in English in 1994, he was signed by Arena Football's Memphis Pharoahs and played at the Pyramid in 1995 and 1996.

After the 1996 season, Russell received a unique opportunity: a chance to play football in the World League (now known as NFL Europe) with the Amsterdam Admirals.

Playing football (or American football, as it is known there) proved to be a very different environment than the one that most are accustomed to here. While the fans were fewer and sellouts were a rare sight, the fans of the teams were loyal, sometimes to the point of fanaticism.

While countries in Europe are certainly proud when it comes to sports, even games between cities such Amsterdan and Rotterdam caused riots.

Meanwhile, during the off-seasons of '95 and '96 Russell had been returning to States, playing a few games for Arena teams San Jose and New York.

While he enjoyed being overseas, he was becoming slightly disenchanted with the way NFL Europe was being run.

"The NFL was using NFL Europe as a testing ground for some of its franchise players," he said. "While the coaches would be in a mindset of wanting to win games, the NFL was putting pressure on them to play the players already signed to an NFL team so that they could get experience. If there was someone that was a franchise player, they might get the nod to play over someone like myself, who wasn't tied to a franchise in the NFL, even though I might be a better player.

He came back to the United States after he was unable to re-sign due to an NFL Europe ruling that players who had been out of college for more than three years and were not signed by an American NFL team could no longer play in the league.

He signed with the New England (formerly New York) Sea Wolves and played the last couple of games in their 1998 season.

Russell came to Nashville through a trade in 1998, just after the conclusion of the season.

Since coming to the Kats, Russell has been an outstanding contributor to the Kats offense, despite being hampered by knee and shoulder problems. He had knee surgery in 1998 and also underwent shoulder surgery.

He has been wanting to pursue his Master's degree in sports management for a while, but had been reluctant to start work because of the high likelihood of moving. Now that he was going to be in Nashville for a while, he wanted to fulfill his desire to become involved in management and marketing of professional sports teams. He was attracted to MTSU because of its proximity to home and the chance to be involved in MTSU's new sports management program.

Marketing is nothing new to Russell. Arena football players traditionally have been very involved in helping to promote their team and the league to their community as a fun-filled, action-packed night that everyone can enjoy at a reasonable price.

After the completion of his master's degree, Russell hopes that his degree – combined with a unique experience in management from being involved in the AFL – will earn him a position with an NFL Franchise.

While he's currently concentrating on classes and healing his shoulder, Jeff has, in the past off seasons, worked as a high-school football coach and a substitute teacher in Stockton. He has also worked in the front office for the Kats and the Sea Wolves.

In his spare time, he enjoys playing golf and reading transcendentalist writers such as Henry David Thoreau.

Middle's athlethic year can

By Michael Edwards

Successful is a good word to use when attempting to define the 2000-2001 year of athletics for Middle Tennessee State University.

For years, the overall athletic success has been overlooked not just by the Nashville media, but even by the local newspapers and the students and faculty of the university. Not many people realized that the men's and women's track teams dominated the Vanderbilt Invitational tournament or that the Blue Raiders had arguably the best baseball player in the country.

Not many people know that the Blue Raiders were ranked in the top 25 by Collegiate Baseball America at one time during the baseball season and hovered around the top 25 all season. They were at the top of the standings in one of the best baseball conferences in America. The Sun Belt Conference put a team in the College World Series last season, which was won by Louisiana State University.

Although, the men's basketball team was plagued by an inability to win games, the women's team made a short run in the conference tournament and played Indiana University in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament. This predicated the signing of one of the best recruiting classes of head coach Stephanie Smith's short tenure at the university.

On the gridiron, Middle Tennessee finished with a 6-5 record, the first winning season since 1997. This included close losses to Maryland and the University of Alabama-Birmingham. According to the Massey Ratings, which are used to help determine the national champion, the Blue Raiders were the second best team in the state. Football U., sometimes loosely dubbed the University of Tennessee, was first, followed by Memphis, and the Vanderbilt Commodores registered a small blip on the state football map. All-everything tailback Dwone Hicks was chosen as the best running back among independents – which includes Notre Dame – and Barry Hall was signed by the Tennessee Titans.

The men's golf team finished fourth in the Sun Belt, while the brand new women's golf team signed the best female high school golfer in the state, Amanda Harter. New head coach Kim St. John has already started the success which all Blue Raider followers will expect.

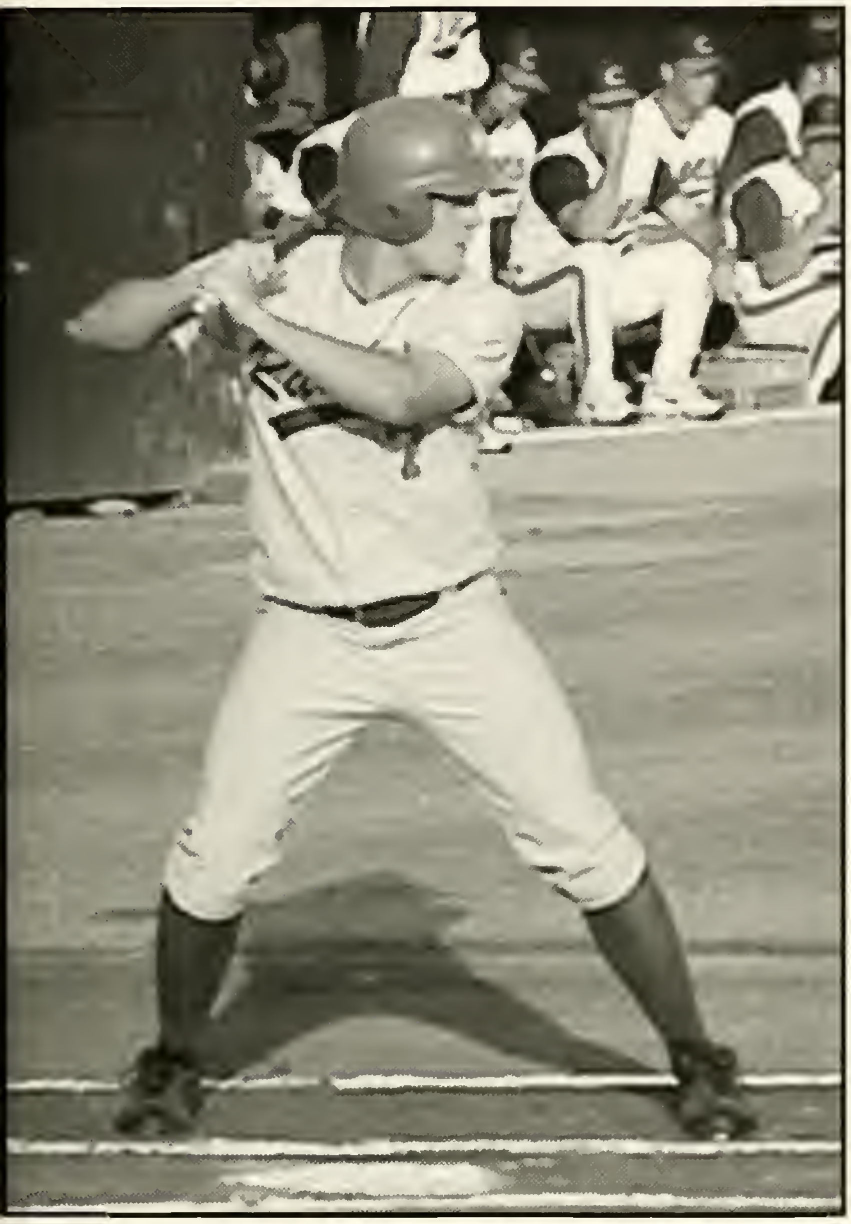
The Middle Tennessee soccer team registered some success when Jenny Cox was named to the All-Sun Belt first team, and Kenya Hickey was named to the second team. The women's tennis team lost in the semifinals of the conference championship tournament after knocking off the number 26 ranked team in the country earlier during the season. The men's team lost in the championship of the conference tournament.

Not yet mentioned is the softball team, which notched a Middle Tennessee first when Stacy Preator added her name to a vacant list of perfect game hurlers for Middle Tennessee softball. This occurred on April 17 against Austin Peay. The Lady Raiders won 7-0.

The final team is the most successful team at the university of at least the past three years. The Middle Tennessee track squads are the best. Perhaps no other school in the state boasts of such a dominant unit. Both teams – the men and the women – won the Sun Belt Indoor Championships. The Blue Raiders put four student athletes in the Sydney Olympics.

Middle Tennessee has perhaps the second most successful athletic program in the state of Tennessee. No, we don't vie for national titles in the big sports like football and men's basketball, but we do in many others. There will be a day when all this will change. And that day will be here soon.

be summed up as successful



Fowler leaves for greener pastures

By Colleen Cox

Athletic Director lee Fowler, who left Oct. 1 for North Carolina State, was not looking to leave MTSU.

"I never applied for a job in the six years I've been here," Fowler said.

Fowler is quick to point out that he "got a call from a ahead hunter. Someone recommended me for (the job). When they asked me if I was interested, I said, 'well, I would be if they're interested in me.'"

Fowler says there are many factors that made him choose to move on to North Carolina State University. Something that sparked his interests is the fact that the school is in the Atlantic Coast Conference and is one of the best schools in the country not just athletically but academically.

Another factor in Fowler's decision was his family.

"Raleigh is about an hour and a half from the beach and about two hours from the mountains," Fowler said. " The girls I have are really excited about that."

The main thing that Fowler says he and his family considered was if it would be a place they could live the rest of their life and be happy.

"When I came to Middle, I really thought I would be here for the rest of my life and be happy with that," Fowler said.

Fowler describes his move as "a move up." He explains that N.C. State is a program that is already established whereas MTSU is just getting started. He also points out that there is more money to work with there.

"They have a $26 million budget where we have a $7 million budget," Fowler said.

Fowler believes the response to him leaving has been sad, but positive nonetheless.

"People are disappointed," Fowler said, "but they understand the process of moving up to a new kind of higher level."

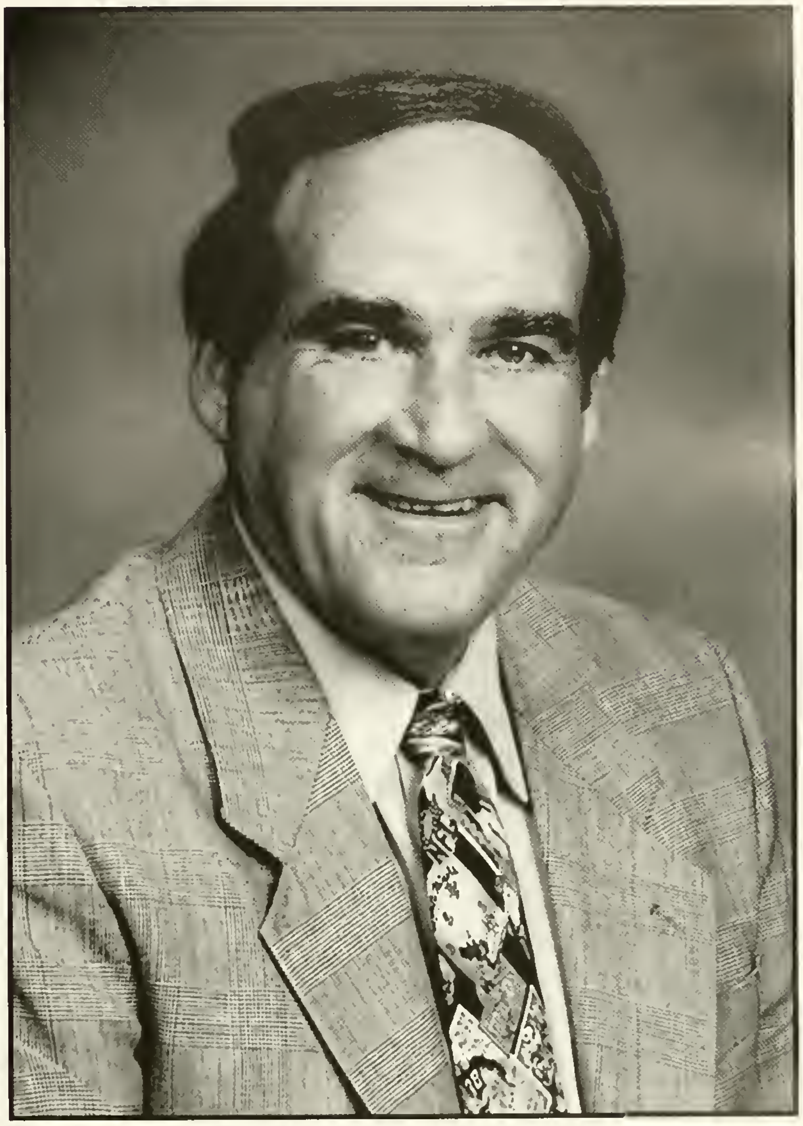
The two defining moments of Fowler's tenure are the move to Division I-A in football and the switch to the Sun-Belt Conference for all of the athletic teams here at MTSU. "That was basically what Dr. Walker said we were going to do when I got here and that was what we really needed to do," Fowler says about the move to Division I-A. He adds moving to the Sun-Belt was "good for the university."

One of Fowler's fondest memories was beating Vanderbilt, his alma mater, in basketball here. Fowler did not name someone he would like to see as his successor, but did say he thinks we will get a good athletic director.

"When I came here I looked at the history of athletic directors that had been here," Fowler said, "and they had all been here, lived here, coached here, became AD here and never left here."

"Now at least they can see that somebody came here, did well and moved on to a higher level. So, I think that opens up to a larger group of athletic directors that maybe don't know anything about Tennessee, but would come here because it's I-A and do well."

Donnelly fills in as AD



Former Middle Tennessee head football coach James "Boots" Donnelly was appointed interim athletic director on Oct. 1. Donnelly, who took over for Lee Fowler, will handle the athletic director's position until a full-time replacement is named.

"Boots Donnelly has been a leader in the athletic department for many years, and I can't think of anyone who wants to see Blue Raider athletics excel any more than him," said President James Walker. "Boots has proven his loyalty through his work and dedication and has taken Blue Raider athletics a long way, including the threshold of I-A football. I am very confident in his ability to lead the department during this time."

Donnelly, who coached the Blue Raider football team from 1979 to 1998, compiled an overall mark of 140-87-1 at Middle Tennessee, while having a 22-year coaching record of 154-94-1. In his 20 years as head coach, Donnelly won four Ohio Valley Conference championships, had 10 national top 25 finishes, made seven I-AA playoff appearances, sent 11 players to the NFL, had eight first team All-Americans and 12 OVC players of the Year, while garnering three OVC Coach of the year awards.

The Nashville native, who played for the Blue Raiders in the early 1960s, was named head football coach in December of 1978, then became an administrator in the department following the 1998 season.

"This is certainly going to be a monstrous task trying to replace Lee Fowler and the incredible job he has done for this athletic department for the past six years," said Donnelly. "We have a challenge ahead of us, but with the gifted people in the administration and our coaches that Lee has put in place, we should continue to move forward.

"On a personal note, I want to add how appreciative I am to have worked with Dr. Walker the past 10 years. There are no words to describe what he has meant to this university and our athletic department."

Donnelly and his wife Carole have three daughters, Bunny, Helen and Lauren, and two grandsons.

"The athletic department will move ahead as normal," Fowler said. "With the leadership already in place and top administrators like Johnny Moore, Larry Counts, Ty Coppinger, Diane Turnham and Mark Owens, the department should still prosper. Boots has an excellent support staff under him and, with his loyalty and leadership abilities, Blue Raider athletics will continue to make strides in becoming one of the best all-around programs in the country."

Blue Raider Football

Matthew Starling

FIRST I-A WINNING SEASON

In just their second season of I-A football, the Blue Raiders put together a winning campaign by going 6-5. It marks the first winning season for MT since 1996 when that team also went 6-5.

Matthew Starling

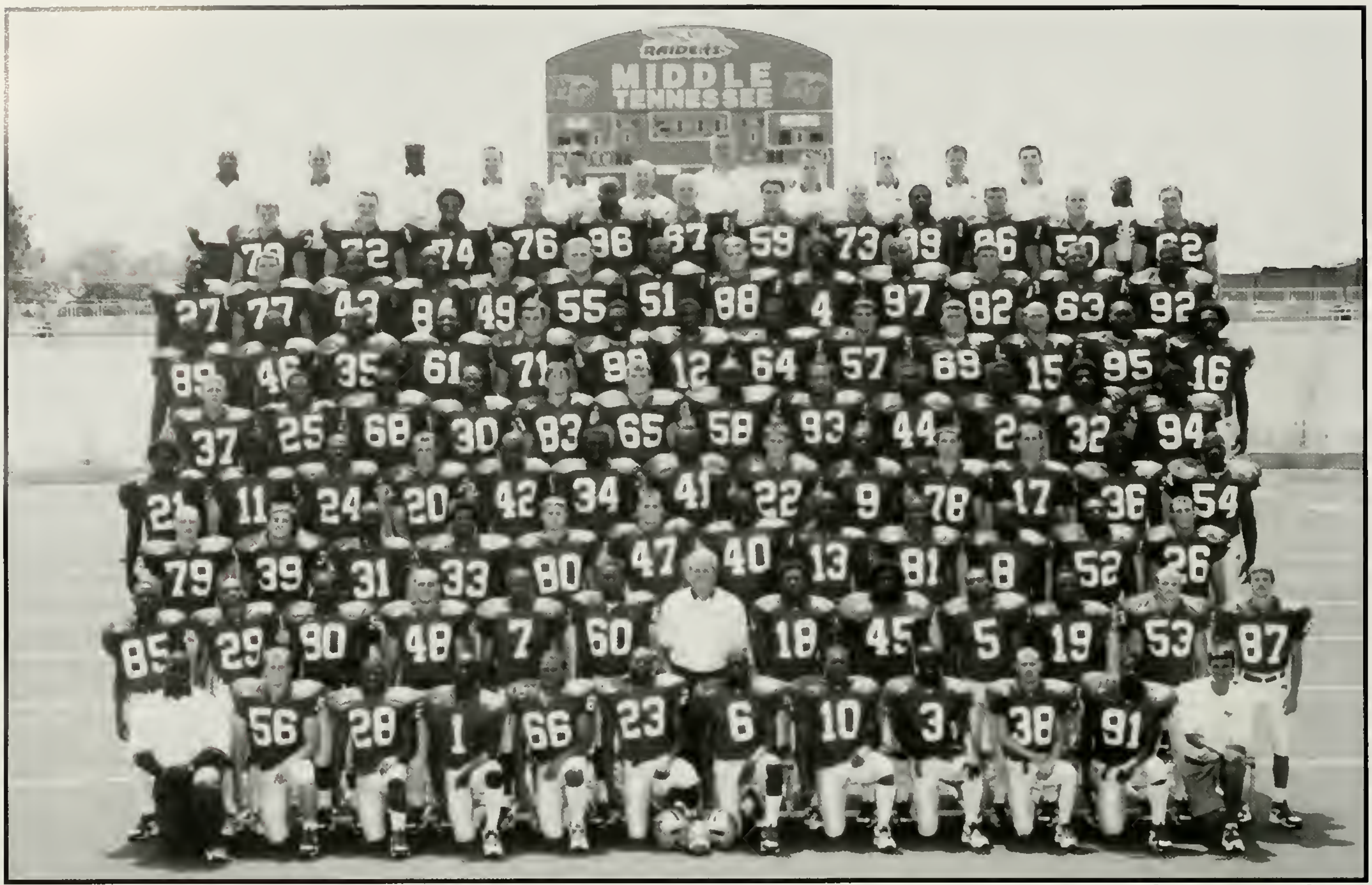
Many teams, including the Universtiy of Louisiana - Monroe faced the tough Blue Raider Defense.

2000 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

Sept. 2 at #21	Illinois	L, 35-6
Sept. 9 at #8	Florida	L, 55-0
Sept. 16	Murray State	W, 44-28
Sept. 23at	Maryland	L, 45-27
Oct. 7	Louisiana Tech	W, 49-21
Oct. 14	UL-Monroe	W, 28-0
Oct. 21 at	UAB	L, 14-9
Oct. 28 at #20	Mississippi State	L, 61-35
Nov. 4 at	Connecticut	W, 66-10
Nov. 11	South Florida	W, 45-9
Nov. 18	UL Lafayette	W, 41-38(2 OT)

Derrick Wilson

2000 Roster



MTSU Photographic Service

1	Kerry Wright	2	Michael Woods	3	Hansford Johnson
4	Nick Payne	5	Muhammad Rashada	6	Wardell Alsup
7	Keith Dollar	8	Jermaine Francis	9	Rashaad Craft
10	Chris Johnson	11	Kareem Bland	12	Kendall Newson
13	Kevin Searcy	15	Lance Phillips	16	Jason Johnson
17	Wes Counts	18	Joe McClendon	19	Jykine Bradley
20	Robert Billings	21	Jamison Palmer	22	Brian Kelly
23	Korey Conner	24	Delvin Pikes	25	Keith Pauldo
27	Tyrone Calico	28	Don Calloway	29	Kendall Rod Higgins
29	Isaiah Brown	30	Rondell Newson	31	Alvin Norris
33	Dwone Hicks	34	Steve Ellison	35	Reggie Polk
36	Rashard Lee	37	Jeffrey Sutton	39	John Madrick
40	Chris Gatlin	41	Scott Brown	42	Brandon Lynch
43	Marcus Harvey	44	Glenn Jones	45	Billy Durham
46	Chris Hough	47	Bo Browne	48	Jason Spray
49	Brad Cooper	50	Gary Sanders	51	LeBron Elder
52	Louis Kemp	53	Joey Montalbano	54	Randy Arnold
55	Josh Willoughby	56	Chris Matusek	57	Glen Elarbee
58	Anthony Hood	59	Brandon Westbrook	61	Reggie Primas
62	Chris Howington	63	Gil Matias III	64	Martez Phelps
65	Joe Moos	66	Barry Hall	67	Montez Haywood
68	Brock Lillis	69	Seth Grabo	70	Jonathan Barry
71	David Coy	72	Craig Smith	73	Jonathan Proby
76	Chris Scott	77	Kevin Pascoe	80	David Youell
81	P.J. Johnson	82	Lucas Frost	83	Sean Saylor
84	Xavier Hatnot	85	Hashem Joyner	86	Wes Stephens
87	Brandon Potter	88	Brett Bucher	89	Landis Witherspoon
90	Kelvin Gatewood	91	Tanaka Scott	94	Ray Miller
95	Terrence King	96	Curtis Daniely	97	Jerry Vanderpool
98	Diko Tinch	99	Brent Walker		

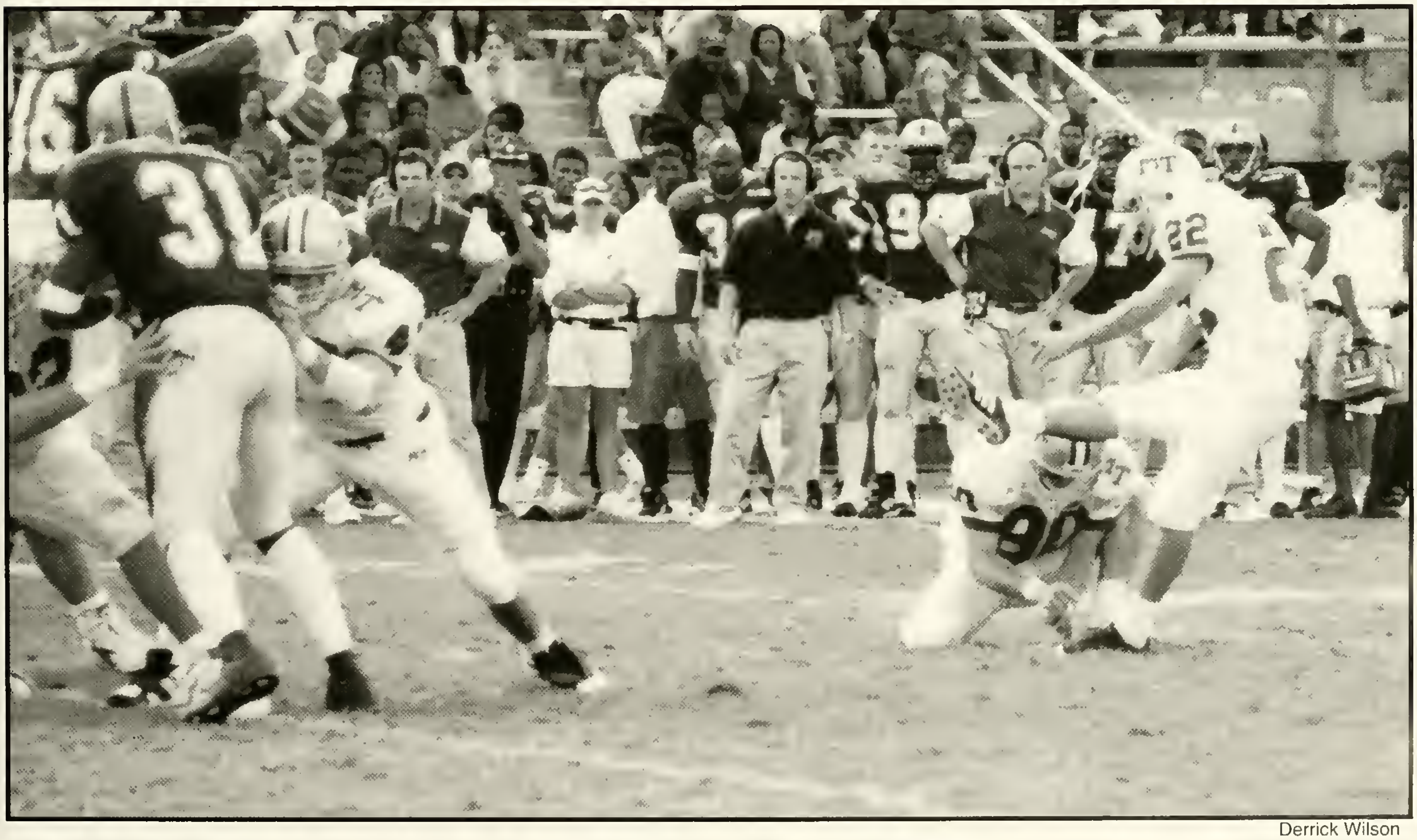
FINAL NCAA RANKINGS

Team

Rushing Offense 24th
Passing Offense 33rd
Total Offense 16th
Scoring Offense 24th
Rushing Defense 61st
Pass Effciency 89th
Total Defense 77th
Scoring Defense 80th
Net Punting 90th
Punt Returns 38th
Kickoff Returns 61st
Turnover Margin 60th
Pass Defense 92nd

Individual

Rushing Dwone Hicks 15th
Passing Efficiency Wes Counts 44th
Rec./Game Kendall Newson 10th
Rec. Yds/Game Kendall Newson 25th
Punt Returns Hansford Johnson 41st
Field Goals Brian Kelly 47th
Scoring Dwone Hicks 3rd
All-purpose yards Dwone Hicks 30th

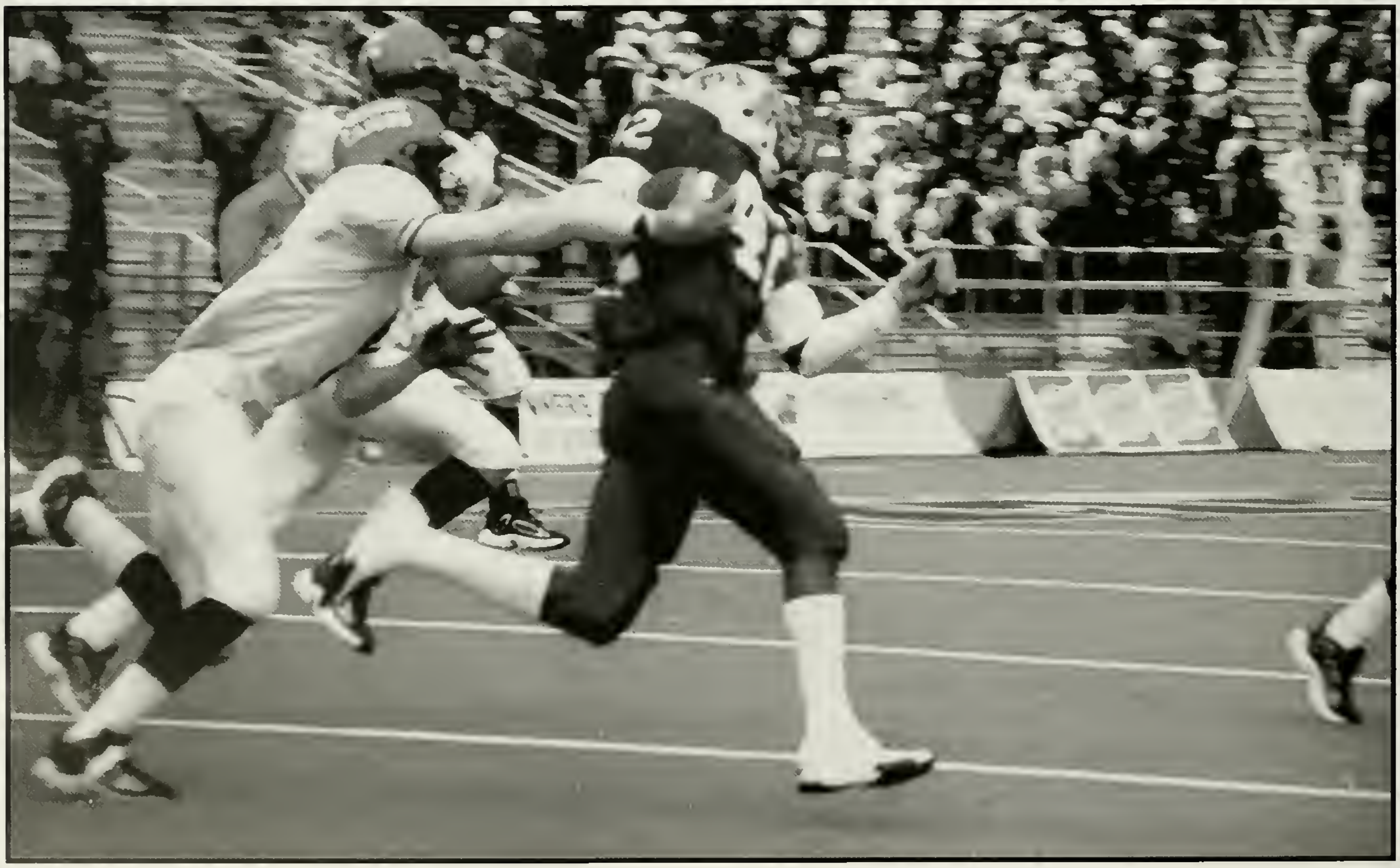


Derrick Wilson

MTSU kicker Brian Kelly attempts a field goal against the University of Alabama - Birmingham.

Robin Wallace

Dwone Hicks reaches for the line.



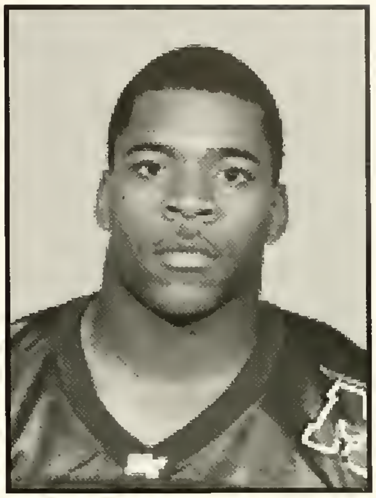
Robin Wallace

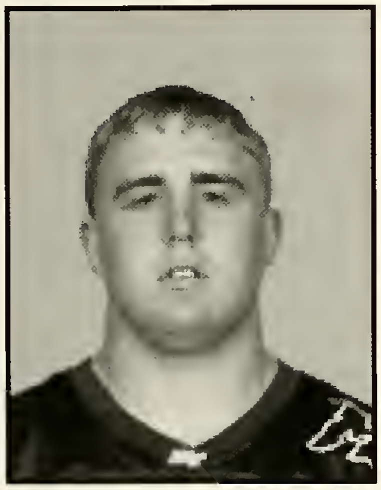
Blue Raider Brandon Lynch breaks off a "Cajun" defender on a long run.

2000 HONORS

Dwone Hicks

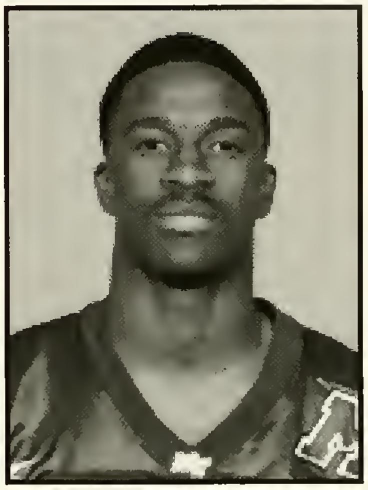
- CFN Independant Offensive Player of the Year.
- First Team CFN all-independent.
- Selected to ESPN's Hidden Video Segment on Oct. 12.
- CFN Offensive Player of the week Oct. 7, Oct.- 14 and Nov. 4.
- Named to CFN's Best Unknown Offensive Players list.





Barry Hall

First team CFN all-independent



Kendall Newson

First Team CFN all-independent

Robin Wallace

Chris Gatlin and Coach Andy McCollum discuss a play.

Calico honored with college football's best pass reception

Wide receiver Tyrone Calico's sensational one-handed acrobatic catch for a touchdown against Mississippi State last Oct. 28 was voted as the "College Football Best Pass Reception of the Year" by a panel of sportswriters and sports broadcasters.

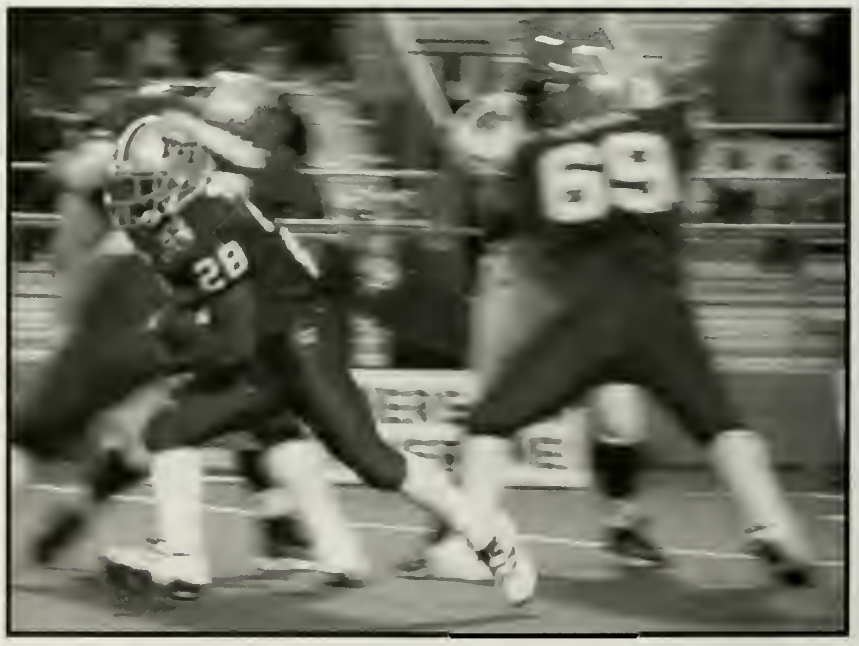
Early in the third quarter, Calico snared a pass from quarterback Wes Counts with one hand, split three defenders, including Bulldog All-American Fred Smoot, and raced 42 yards down the sideline for a Blue Raider touchdown.

"College Football Plays of the Year" is the program that categorizes and judges plays that are nominated by colleges and universities from all levels of college football-NCAA Divisions I, IAA, II, and III, the NAIA, junior colleges and community colleges.

The winning play is memorialized with an oil painting at the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind. An identical canvas duplicate is also given to the winning university. The program is co-sponsored by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA), and is supported by the Football Writers Association or America (FWAA).

Robin Wallace

Tyrone Calico fights off a UAB defender.



Robin Wallace

Don Calloway rushes through the hole.

FLOYD STREAK AT SIX

Photo: R. Wallace

Middle Tennessee will enter the 2001 season riding a six-game winning streak at Floyd Stadium. Since Floyd Stadium opened in 1933 the Blue Raiders have compiled an overall mark of 233-86-13 (.721), including a record 31-game win streak from 1987-94. MT is 10-4 at Floyd since the renovation in 1998 and are 8-2 under Andy McCollum.

Robin Wallace

Fans rush the field of Floyd Stadium after a win.

Eric Miller

Nick Payne and Rashaad Craft share team spirit and a smile.

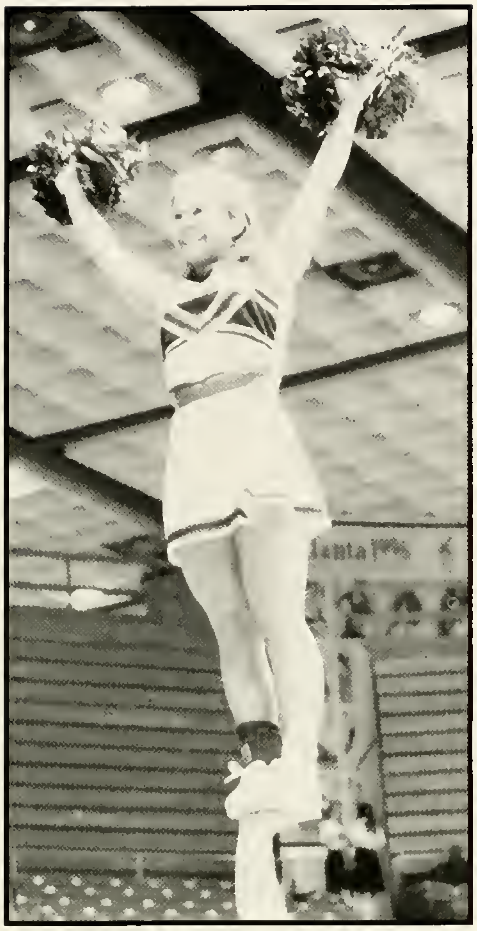
Photos by Robin Wallace

Amy Calloway and Ahmed Freeman enjoy a lunch break with a friend.

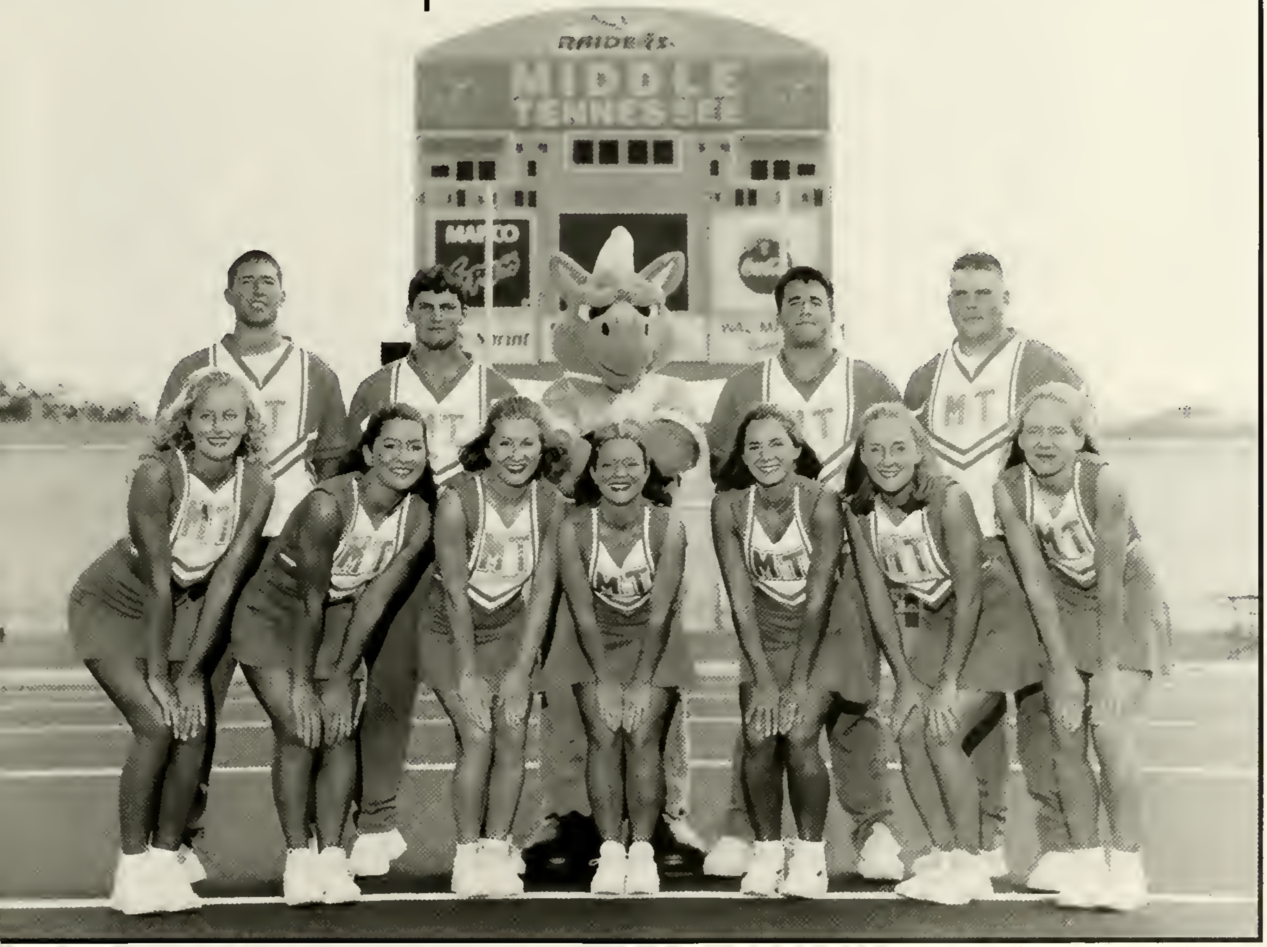
The mischevious mascot, Lightning,is up to something.

Blue Squad members try to excite the student section.

Cheerleading



2000 Blue Squad



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Ainsley Wiseman

Women's Soccer

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0	Emily Shrum	00	Jessica Busey	1	Jennifer Robb
4	Allison Schulz	5	Megan McGregor	6	LindsayHenderson
7	Sheri Robbins	8	Veera Viljakainen	9	Rachael Sulkers
10	Morgan Guoan	11	Kenya Hickey	12	Elizabeth Masey
13	Tiffany Moore	14	Meg Holsten	15	Sarah Schulz
17	Breann Nevin	18	Emily Carter	19	Jennifer Cox
22	Lindsey Bopp				

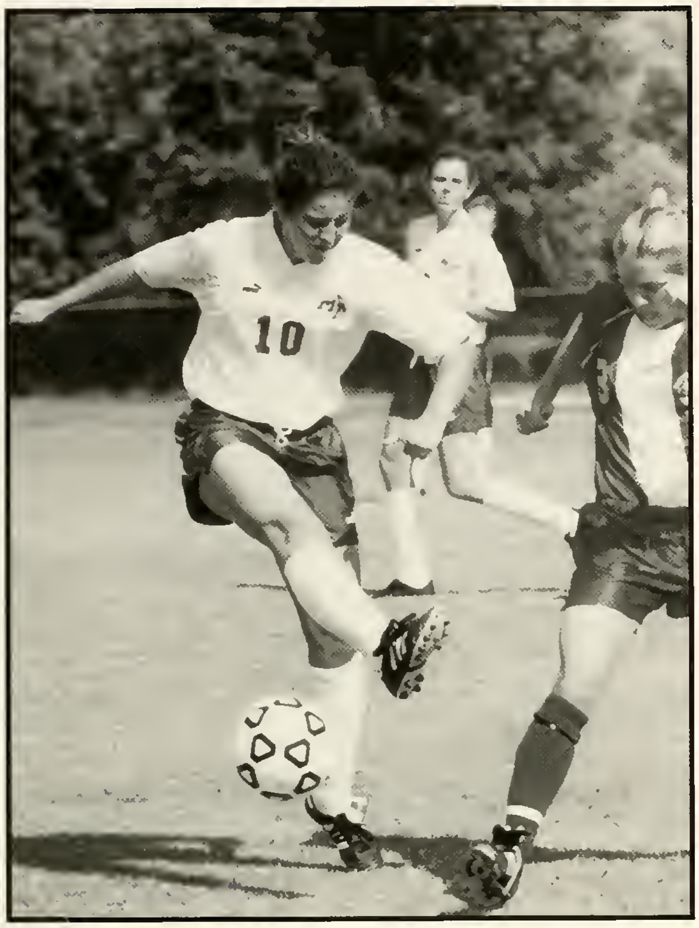
Head Coach Scott Ginn
Asst. Coach Beth Acreman

2000 Roster

Matthew Starling

Jennifer Cox fights off two opponents.

"I think that there are probably two top teams and everyone else is right in there together. The level of competition is outstanding and it won't be much longer before we can really become competitive in this league."
– Head Coach Scott Ginn on the SBC Tournament



Matthew Starling

Morgan Guoan confuses a defender.

Jenny Cox, Kenya Hickey receive Sun Belt awards

Jenny Cox became the first Lady Raider to be named first team All-Sun Belt and Kenya Hickey was named second team.

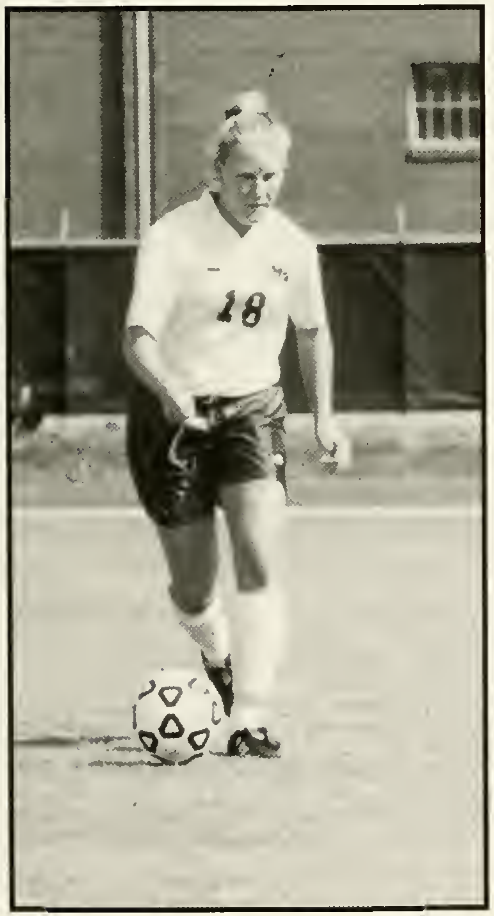
Cox, a freshman midfielder from Clarksville, put together an outstanding season in her first year at Middle Tennessee. During the regular season, Cox was second on the squad with 15 points. She collected five goals and five assists on the year.

Hickey, a senior from McMinnville, turned in the finest season of her career. To date, Hickey has netted 10 goals and an assist and leads the team with 21 points.

Head coach Scott Ginn said that the awards mean a great deal to the winners and his program as a whole.

"I was very excited for Kenya and Jenny," said Ginn. "It could be easy for the other coaches to overlook our team because we finished fifth and the top three or four teams tend to get the awards. It says a lot for Kenya and Jenny to be recognized."

Ginn continued, "It is a big honor for the girls that won the awards, but it is also big for our program. It says a lot about where we are headed."



Matthew Starling

Emily Carter looks for an open teammate.

Matthew Starling

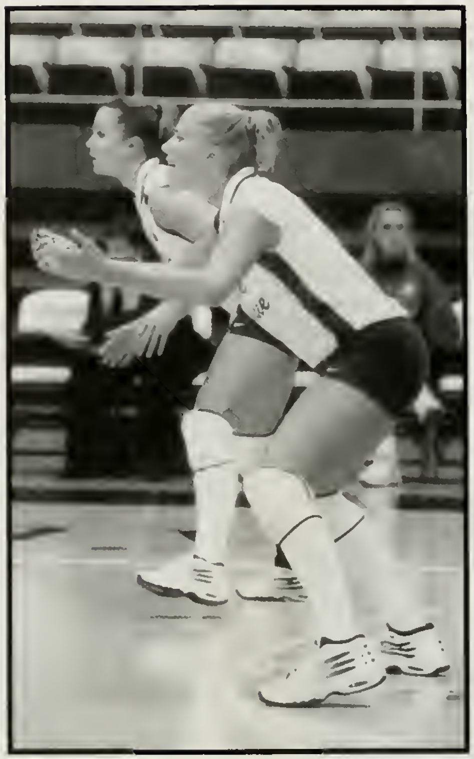
Allison Schulz follows the ball.

Volleyball team reaches semis in their first Sun Belt tournament

The University of New Orleans defeated the Lady Raider volleyball team 3-0 to move on to the finals of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. The loss ended the Lady Raiders season at 16-18. The Lady Raiders became the first new school since Sun Belt expansion three years ago to advance to the semifinals.

Middle Tennessee moved into the semifinals after a first round win over University South Alabama and a victory over the number one seed Denver, but in the end the loss of Katie Thiesen on the first day of the tournament during warm-ups and a rowdy New Orleans crowd proved to be too much for the squad.

The loss ended this season for the Lady Raiders, who had their best record since 1995. The team showed 10 underclassmen, and the trip to the semis gives the Lady Raiders high expectations for next season.

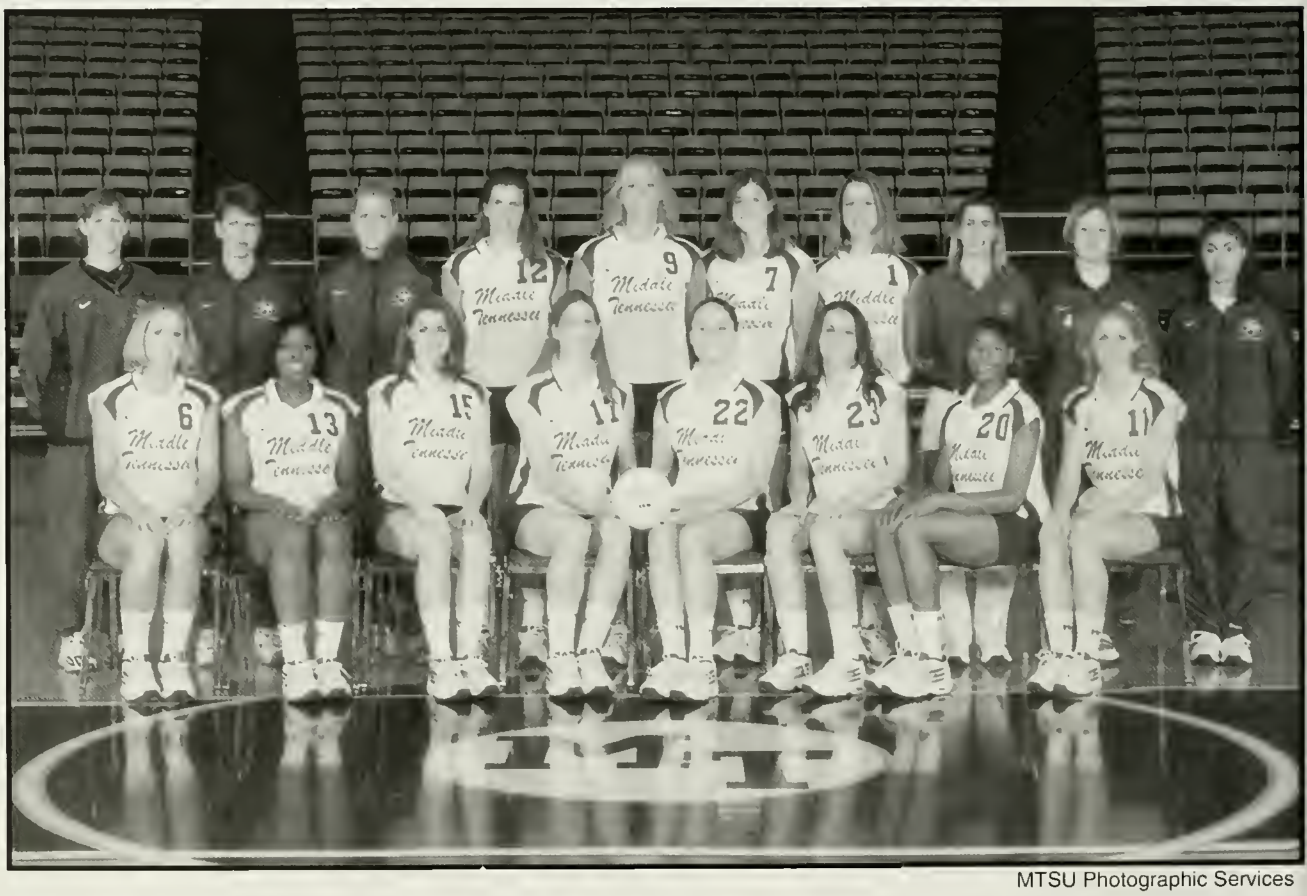


Matthew Starling

Katie Thiesen sets up for the ball.

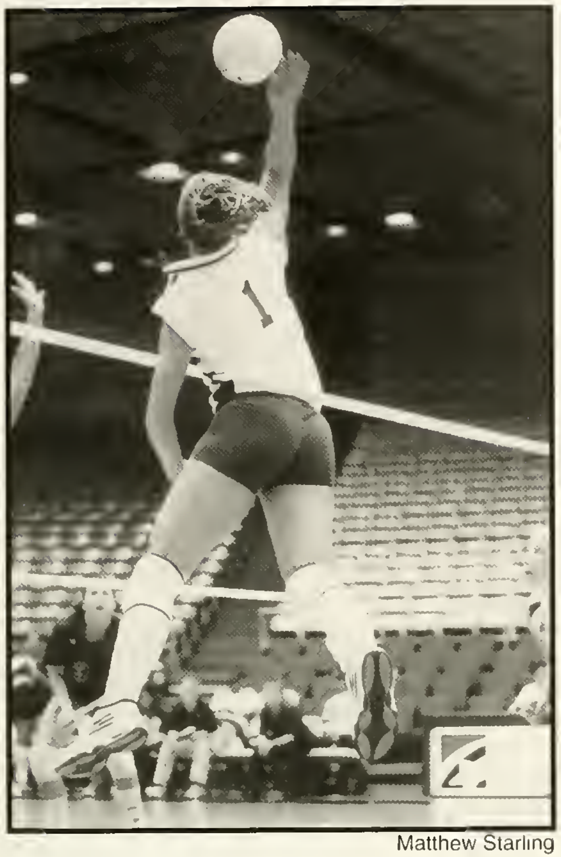
Volleyball

2000 Roster



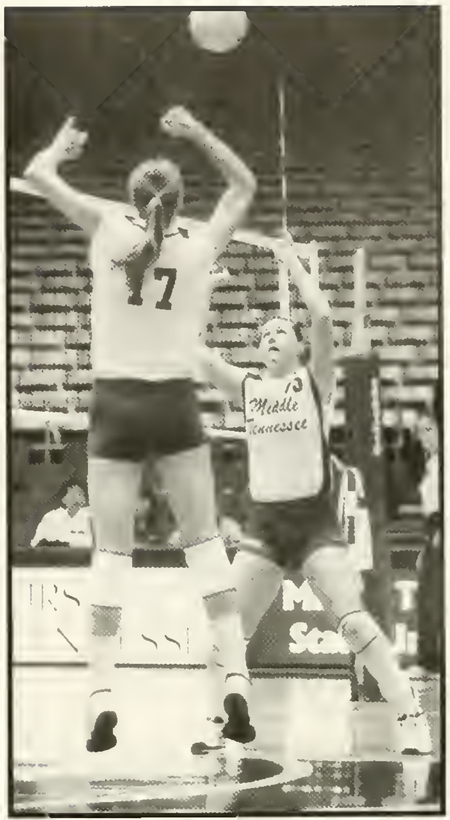
MTSU Photographic Services

1	Erin Hillstrom	6	Caia Morstad	7	Jennifer Hignite
9	Katie Thiesen	11	Goldie Bilyeu-Sears	12	Giovana Milaneze
13	Karisse Baker	15	Kelly Quinn	17	Lindsay Pritchard
20	Shakeithia Deckard	22	Abby Hartup	23	Alicia Scott



Matthew Starling

Erin Hillstrom returns the ball.



Matthew Starling

Lindsay Pritchard goes to spike.

Players honored with team awards

Volleyball team awards for the 2000 season were handed out at the Lady Raiders annual year-end banquet.

First team All-Sun Belt Conference member Lindsay Pritchard was honored as the 2000 MVP for the Lady Raiders as well as Outstanding Offensive Player and Outstanding Blocker. Her .327 hitting percentage and 1.59 blocks per game led the Sun Belt Conference. Pritchard ranked 18th nationally in blocks.

Freshman Goldie Bilyeu earned Best Server with 43 aces on the season and Outstanding Newcomer. She was second on the team with 653 assists per game.

Senior Abby Hartup ended her career with the Lady Raiders by being recognized as the team's Most Outstanding Passer.

Most Improved Player award went to Alicia Scott, who was fourth on the team with 2.13 kills per game and second on the team with 229 digs.

Other awards handed out during the banquet were for team merit awards. The Heart Award given to the player that is looked to as the heart of the team was awarded to Katie Theisen. Theisen led the team in total kills, but had to watch during the Sun Belt Tournament after injuring her ankle.

The Rock Award given to the player who is the most dependable was awarded to Pritchard. The award is to exemplify the player that withstands the pressures of games and the season. Pritchard was also presented with the Leadership Award.

The Little "K" Award was given to Alicia Scott. The award is to recognize the player that exemplifies the character of the "Best All-Around Players in the World" – Caren Kemner and Karch Kiraly.

NBA star gives Raiders a workout

By: Chad R. Wood

When Indiana center Rik Smits announced his retirement from the NBA, everyone was surprised when one month later he was working out with the Blue Raider basketball team.

Smits, a 12-year veteran with the Pacers, was visiting Murfreesboro with his wife, who has relatives in the area.

"I've known Coach Wiel since my days back in Holland and camps at North Carolina," said Smits after a two and a half hour workout with Middle Tennessee's basketball team. "I'm just out here trying to get back into shape."

Although retired from the NBA, Smits plans to join the Dutch National team next month.

"I'm a little rusty," said Smits. We have the qualification rounds starting next month, and I just to need to get some work in before going over there."

Smits spent his entire career with the Pacers and made the decision to retire last summer. During his career in Indiana, Smits averaged 14.8 points and 6.1 rebounds per game.

His best season came in 1996 when he averaged over 18 points and nearly seven rebounds per game. He was also elected to the NBA's eastern All-Star team in 1998.

"I always felt that if I began to slip a little, I would make that decision," said Smits. "That happened to me, and I didn't want to be one of those who was trying to hang on and sit the bench some and play every once and a while."

Photo provided

Rik Smits takes the MT low-post players to task.

Smits' family also played a role in his decision to retire from the NBA.

"You miss a lot of time with your family when you play in the NBA," commented Smits. "I missed a lot of time with my wife and my kids, so I'm looking forward to being able to spend more time with my family."

With Middle Tennessee just weeks away from opening the season with their first year in the Sun Belt Conference approaching, the presence of Smits during practice can only help an experienced group low post players.

"I'm real impressed with these guys," said Smits. "They have a lot of talent on this team, and I like the atmosphere here."

Photo provided

Jani Hiltunen shows off his junp shot in the Blue and White game.

MTSU Photographic Services

Coach Randy Wiel shows a worried look.

MTSU Photographic Services

2000-2001 Roster

00	Jonathan Whitworth	1	DMarius Wilkes	3	Kevin White
5	Jermale Wilkerson	10	Freddie Martinez	22	Iiro Tenngren
23	Jani Hiltunen	25	Marcus Mason	32	Tommy Gunn
33	Lee Nosse	34	Bryant Mitchell	40	Steven Jackson
42	Dale Thomas	44	Luigi Lopes	50	Demario Watson

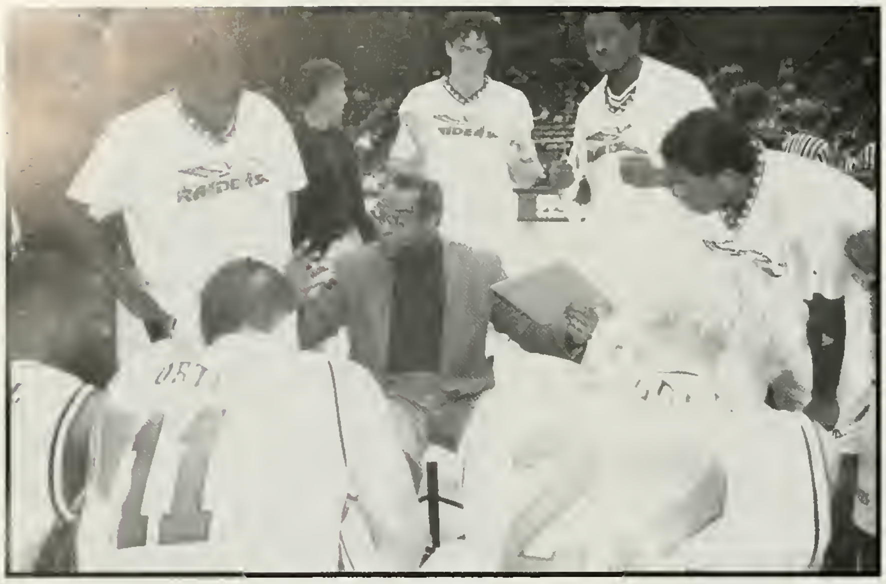


Photo provided

Coach Randy Wiel holds court with his players during a timeout.

SUN BELT CONFERENCE

Raiders give Vols a run for their money

AP and Staff Reports

Fourth-ranked Tennessee barely survived a slow start before beating Middle Tennessee State 99-83 Dec. 15 at Nashville's Gaylord Entertainment Center

It was the first game for the Vols with their new ranking. This was UT's highest ranking since being ranked fourth in January 1968.

Middle Tennessee just couldn't keep pace once the Vols finally got their act together in the end of first half and stretching into the second.

Despite Tennessee's size advantage, Middle Tennessee managed to out rebound them 42-39. Bryant Mitchell led the team for the fourth time this season with eight. But that couldn't keep the orange tide back.

"Tennessee is deep and they kept throwing bodies and numbers at us," said Coach Randy Wiel. "For the most part, we did what we set out to do. I was surprised that we out-rebounded them because that was one of our fears, and we shot a pretty good percentage from the field. Right now that's the only thing that jumps out at me right after the game. But if we can play like we played in the first half then I think we'll be all right."

Vols Coach Jerry Green gave the Blue Raiders much credit. "I think in the first half they played awfully good. It seemed like everything they put up from three was going in, and they out-rebounded us by about four in the first half. I thought it was a really good shot they gave us. But I think we absorbed their best shot. At halftime we talked about refining things and doing a couple of things differently, and I thought we did that. The press was good to us with 22 turnovers and I thought our assists to error ratio was pretty good."

"I think their press defense was pretty effective," said Wiel about UT's defense. "The effort was there from beginning and the execution was there once we got into our sets. Of course, we didn't execute well against their press. That's really the only thing. Normally I could say we didn't rebound or we made turnovers but that wasn't the case. I just think it was their press."

High expectations follow Tommy Gunn

Photo provided

Tommy Gunn battles with a Denver Guard.

The die-hard movie fan knows who Tommy Gunn is. He was the young punk in Rocky V, who Sylvester Stallone had to mash in the movies obligatory closing fight sequence.

But MT's Tommy Gunn is a far cry from that.

MT's Tommy Gunn is a 6-3, 195-pound high-riser, whose voice is so silky he could spin late-night love songs on FM radio.

A native of Syracuse, New York, Gunn spent his high school days at Corcoran where he averaged 15.6 points per game, and 8.1 boards. After his prep career, Gunn stopped off at Bridgton Academy Prep School, where those numbers improved to 18 ppg and 8.5 boards. Now with his collegiate career in front of him, Gunn hopes to improve even further.

"I feel that my role will be to score," he says. "And to make things happen on the court. The coaches are telling me they brought me in here to produce, and that's what I'm planning on doing."

Of course, should he be defending an opponent who's particularly hot on a given night, all he may need to do is tell them a bedtime story and watch them fall sound asleep in the middle of the court.

"He's got that voice," says teammate and fellow freshman Jermale Wilkerson. "But he should stick with basketball because he cant sing."

That shouldn't matter if Gunn is capable of producing like the Blue Raider coaches think he is. There may also be a bit of showtime to Gunn's game. He's mentioned that there is a "360 Tomahawk" and a "windmill" jam in his repertoire.

But for now, its learning the basics and adapting to Coach Randy Wiel's system that Gunn is focusing his efforts on.

"Coach Wiel makes you feel really comfortable," he says. "He shows a lot of interest in you and that's what I like. And the veterans on the team show an interest in making you better. The seniors will take you aside and show you what you're doing wrong and fill you in on what you may be missing. There's a real family-type atmosphere to this team, and I think that's important."

When Gunn is not on the court, he can usually be found contributing to his community through various organizations. He is a member of the Urban League Hall of Fame and is also a volunteer with the Special Olympics.

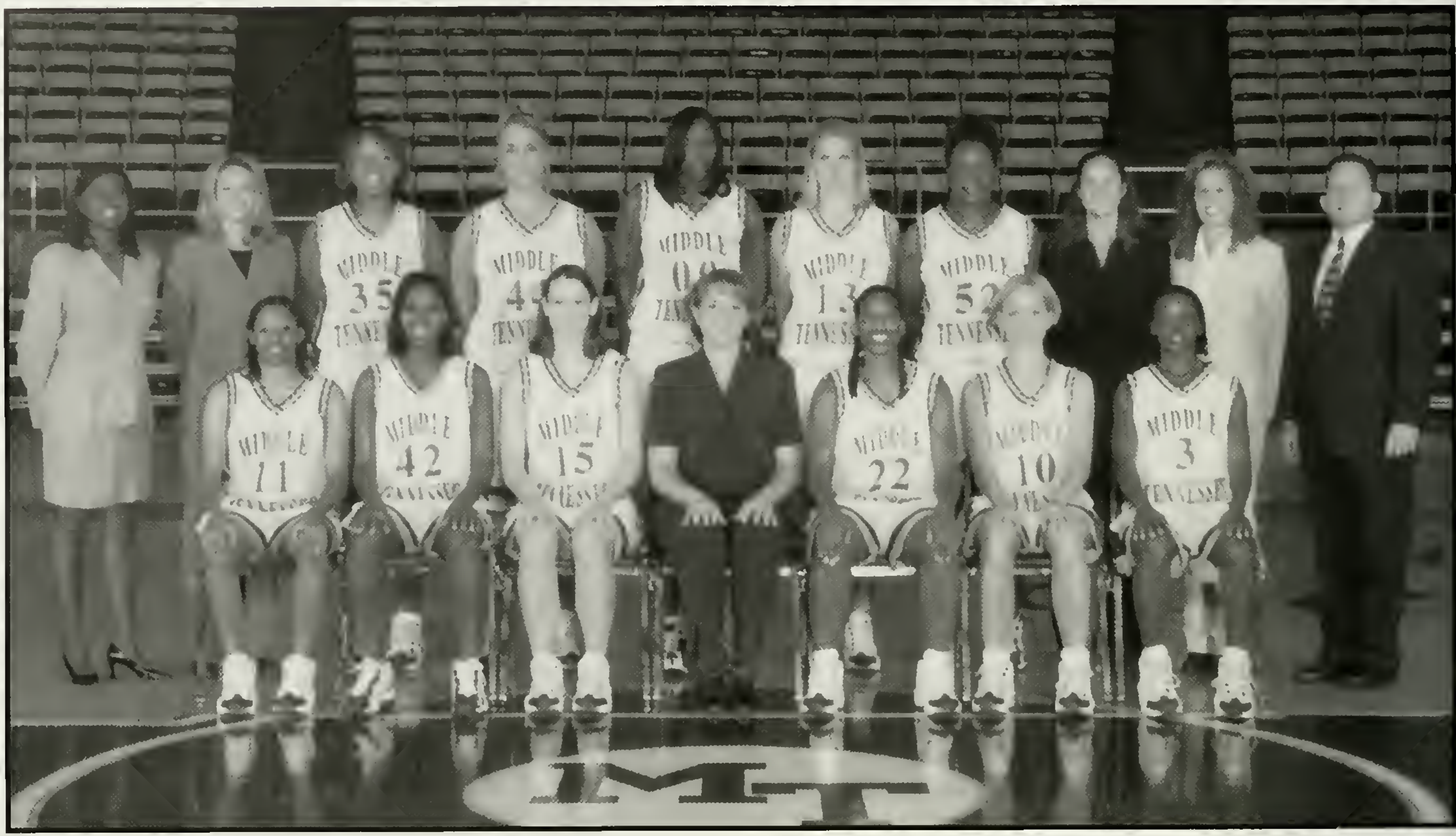
Although he says he's not quite sure where he wants to go with his career, Gunn says that has seriously considered Child Psychology as his major.

But, of course, basketball is the main time-consumer at the moment, as Gunn will try to help his team improve on last years 15-13 overall mark and compete in the Sunbelt Conference.

"Right now I'm just working on my consistency," says Gunn. "I think that's going to be one of the things that helps us get to the big dance if we can stay consistent this season. We've got our goals set and now all we've got to do is reach them."

Lady Raider Basketball

2000 Roster



MTSU Photographic Services

52	Joanne Aluka	15	Kelly Chastain	44	Chrissy Davenport
31	Kate LaMaster	5	Keisha McClinic	11	Jessica McClure
13	Mia Parviainen	10	Paula Penttila	22	Nicole Perkins
23	Michelle Simmons	35	Jamie Thomatis		

MTSU Photographic Services
Coach Stephany Smith sets the game plan.

Thomatis named All-Conference

Jamie Thomatis was selected to the All-Sun Belt Conference Team in February, the only Lady Raider to be honored by theSun Belt Conference as voted by the media, head coaches and sports information directors.

Thomatis, a preseason conference pick followed up on expectations ranking second in the conference in scoring at 20.8 points per game. She also ranked in the Top 15 in rebouding, steals, assists, and was first in the conference in field goal shooting.

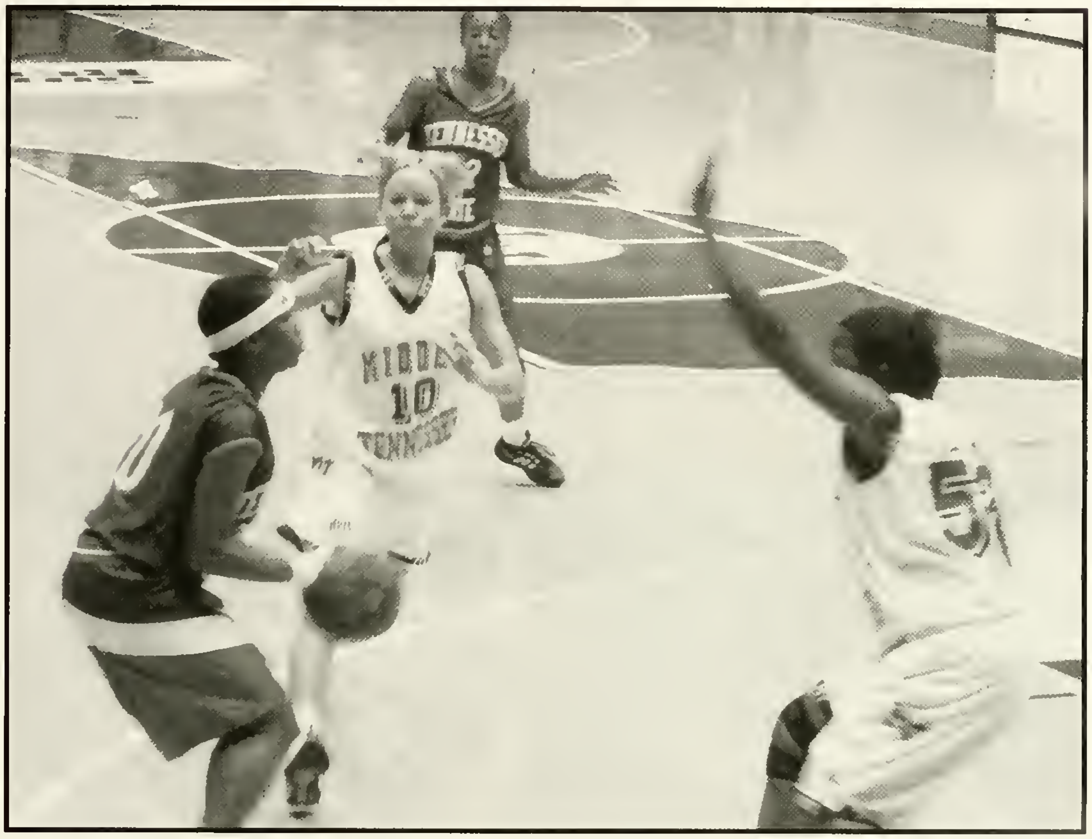
Thomatis has now been honored with regular season accolades all three years at Middle Tennessee. She was voted first team All-OVC last season and earned Honorable Mention honors in the OVC as a freshman.

Thomatis, Chastain set records

Jamie Thomatis scored the 1,000th point of her career on a free throw with 4:10 left in the game in a matchup against University of North Carolina Greensboro .

Although she missed her first free throw attempt – breaking a streak of 22 straight made – she became the 14th player in school history to reach 1,000 points in a career and the eighth junior to accomplish the feat.

Also during the game, Senior Kelly Chastain became the first guard in school history to record 100 blocks in a career when she swatted a 3-point attempt during the second half of the Lady Raiders' win. She needed only three more to move up to No. 3 all-time on the Middle Tennessee career block list.



Robin Wallace

Paula Penttila and Joanne Aluka put pressure on a Tennessee State University shooter.

Lady Raiders season ends in semis

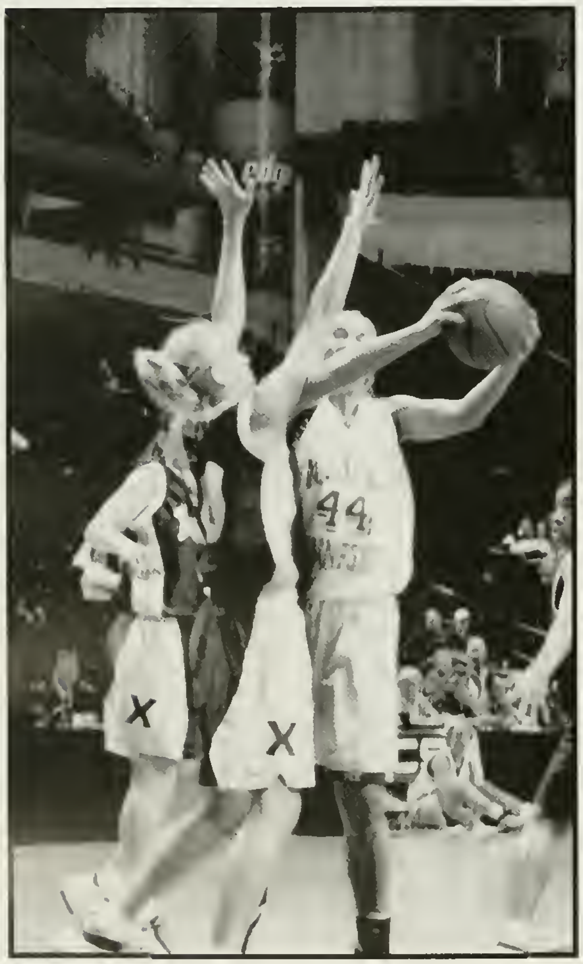
By Brian Albertson

The Lady Raider basketball season and the hope of an automatic NCAA tournament bid came to an abrupt end at the hands of Austin Peay in the semifinals of the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament. The loss was a disappointing end to a dramatic ten game win streak, which turned a bleak 8-10 mid-season funk into a second place regular season conference finish.

The Lady Raider basketball season and the hope of an automatic NCAA tournament bid came to an abrupt end at the hands of Austin Peay in the semifinals of the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament. The loss was a disappointing end to a dramatic ten game win streak, which turned a bleak 8-10 mid-season funk into a second place regular season conference finish.

"It's a shame that the season has to end this way," said Coach Smith. "We got off to a slow start with a 10-8 record. They could have just given up then, but they didn't. They wanted to win and worked for it, and we came in here 18-10. That shows they really have a lot of character."

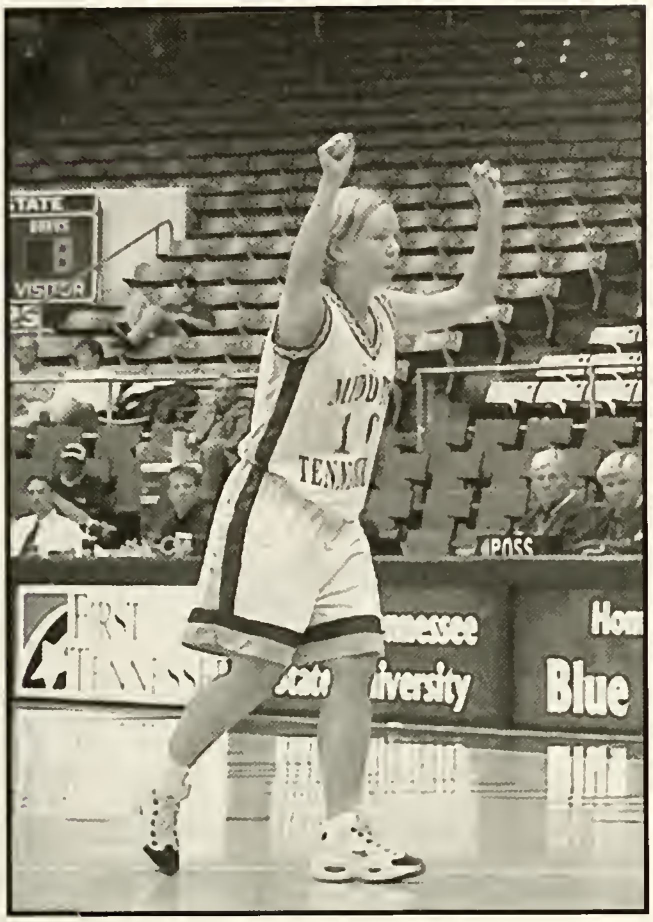
The Lady Raiders finished the season 18-11 overall, 13-5 in the OVC. They beat every team in the conference at least once, including a 21 point (84-63) defeat over Austin Peay just two weeks prior to the tournament and an eight point (90-82) victory at home over conference champion Tennessee Tech. The team was almost untouchable at the Murphy Center, recording only early two losses against eleven wins.



Chrissy Davenport gets around a Xavier defender.

Jessica McClure puts the pressure on.

Penttila adds international flavor



By Keith Ryan Cartwright

Going off to college isn't always easy. Often kids can't wait to get out from under the watchful eyes of their parents.

Imagine being Olli and Raija Penttila the day their daughter Paula told them of her wish to play collegiate basketball in the United States.

"We were very supportive," Olli said. "It's something she wanted to do."

With the language barrier, recruiting Paula became a chess match for the Lady Raider coaching staff. Although Paula is very fluent in English, her father knows only the basics enough to communicate while they visit while her mother knows very little.

"You just need to learn the word, moi," said Lady Raider head coach Stephany Smith, "which means hello and good-bye in Finnish. If you called and didn't get Paula on the phone, it was easier for parties to just say moi. It was a lot easier then trying to say that you didn't understand Finnish or for them to explain that they didn't understand English."

During the recruiting process Smith relied not only on talking with Paula but also her National coach, who was also fluent in English.

A short time later the Lahti, Finland native was on a plane en- route to Murfreesboro.

Not only was Paula a first-year student at Middle Tennessee, but she also was an important member of the Lady Raiders basketball team last season as they attempted to capture another OVC title.

"It was very important for her to come and see a different country," Olli said, "and get this kind of experience."

Paula is one of just six Lady Raiders to play in all 15 games this season. The 5-9 guard is averaging 25.4 minutes per game mostly as a reserve. Her 36 assists are second on the team only to starting point guard Jessica McClure.

"With the internet, it's very easy to follow what is happening," Olli said. "It's so easy and quite fast. I like that we can get the stat sheets. We can see how many minutes she plays, how many points she had, how she is playing."

Making Paula's transition a bit easier is the fact the fellow Finnish freshmen Mia Parviainen decided to cross the Atlantic Ocean and become a Lady Raider as well.

Parviainen is from Helsinki, both her and Paula know each other from a Finnish club league the two play in. After about a month or so Paula was homesick but that is expected, Olli said. Having Mia here makes it easier but [Paula] would have come anyway.

Oddly enough, the men's program also features two players Iiro Tenngren and Jani Hiltunen from Finland. All except for Paula are from Helsinki.

"We thought it would be better that the two came together," said Olli, of Paula and Mia, who until now have competed against one another for the past four seasons. "They are not together all the time they spend time with other teammates but I think it is easier on them."

Head coach Stephany Smith added that considering both Paula and Parviainen are 20 years old, their maturity level is higher then a typical freshman. Finnish students attend high school for five years as opposed to the four years American students go.

"When you accept the responsibility of leaving a country you've already taken on a lot," Smith said. "Their maturity level is higher than an average freshman."

Men's Tennis

Klemetz, Team hold national rankings

Daniel Klemetz will begin the 2001 tennis season with the highest ranking for a sophomore in school history at No. 10 in the nation. Klemetz recorded an 8-3 record during the fall with several key wins over ranked opponents.

Klemetz Top 10 ranking is the highest for a Blue Raider since 1997 when Fred Niemeyer climbed to No. 4 in the nation.

As a team, the men will begin the 2001 season ranked 57th in the nation, which Head Coach Dale Short hopes to improve upon.

"We are better than some of the teams ranked ahead of us, especially if we have a healthy team" said Short.

Blue Raiders win tenth straight match

That's exactly what the Blue Raider tennis team did with a 5-2 victory over rival Tennessee Tech for their 10th straight regular season OVC Championship.

Although last season was marred with a tough 4-3 setback to the Eagles in the conference championship, the Blue Raiders took control of the match early and at the same time sending a message.

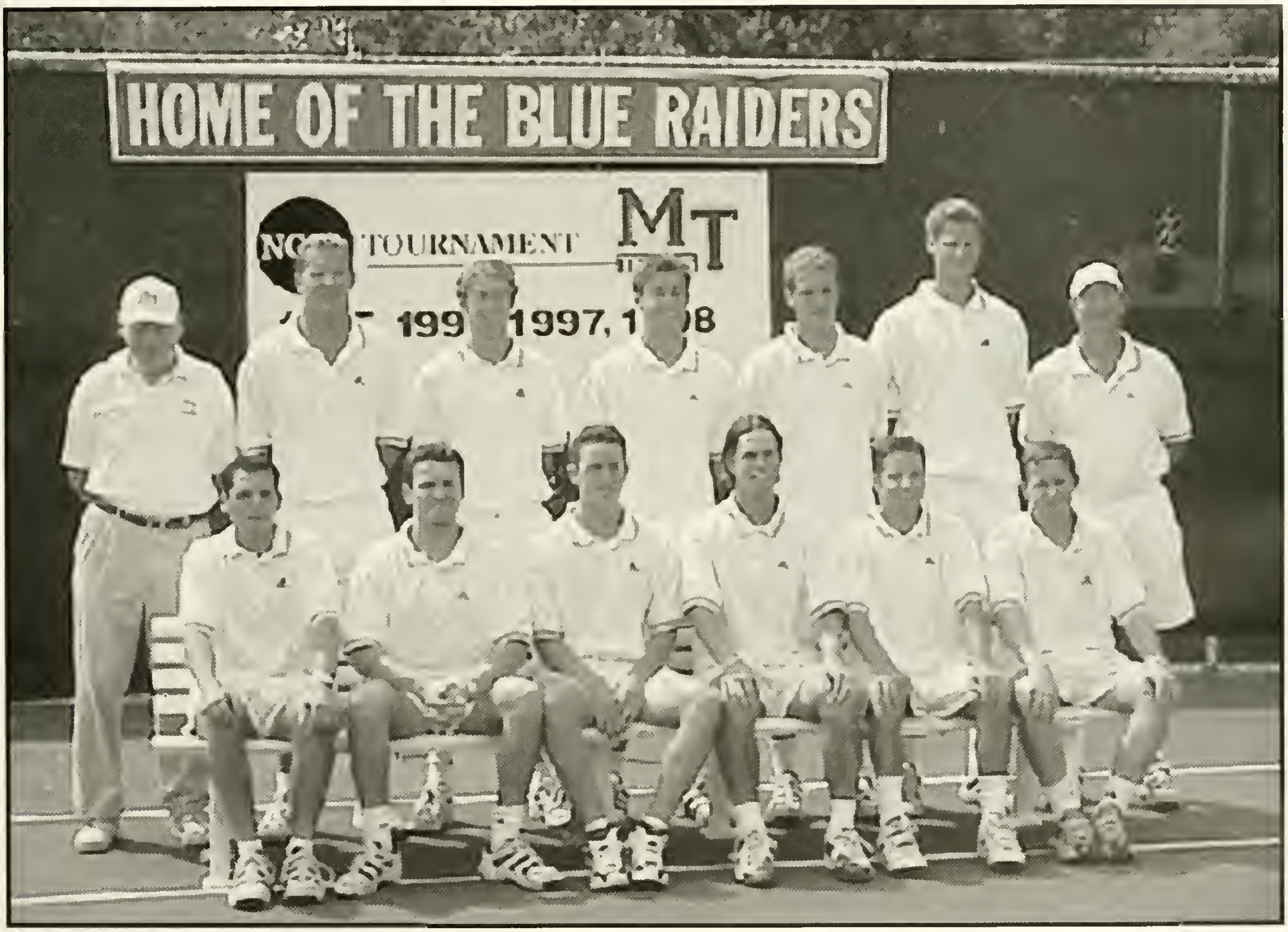
The Blue Raiders won all three doubles matches to take a 1-0 lead going into singles. "I think coming out like we did gave us a sense of confidence that we could win the match if we just took care of business on our end," said Head Coach Dale Short.

After doubles, Michael Chamberlain wasted no time giving the Blue Raiders a 2-0 lead dispatching of Piotr Wawrzyniak in straight sets.

"It feels pretty good," said Chamberlain after claiming the title. "We were ready. "Coach got us pumped up for this, because our main goal was to win the OVC."

Daniel Klemetz and Olle Nystrom clinched the match at 4-1 winning in straight sets. Robert Gustafsson added a three-set win while Tennessee Tech's Piotr Wawrzyniak and Mirza Duranovic added straight set wins.

"We played just well enough to win today," commented Short. "We will have to take it up a notch in the tournament if we want to move on."



Front (left to right): Billy Hamadeh, Mehdi Belbacha, Oliver Foreman, Mark Pellerin, Sean Bowen, and Michael Chamberlain.
Back: Asst. Coach Buck Bouldin, Asst. Coach Julius Robberts, Dustin Kane, Daniel Klemetz, Olle Nystrom, Robert Gustaffson, and Head Coach Dale Short.

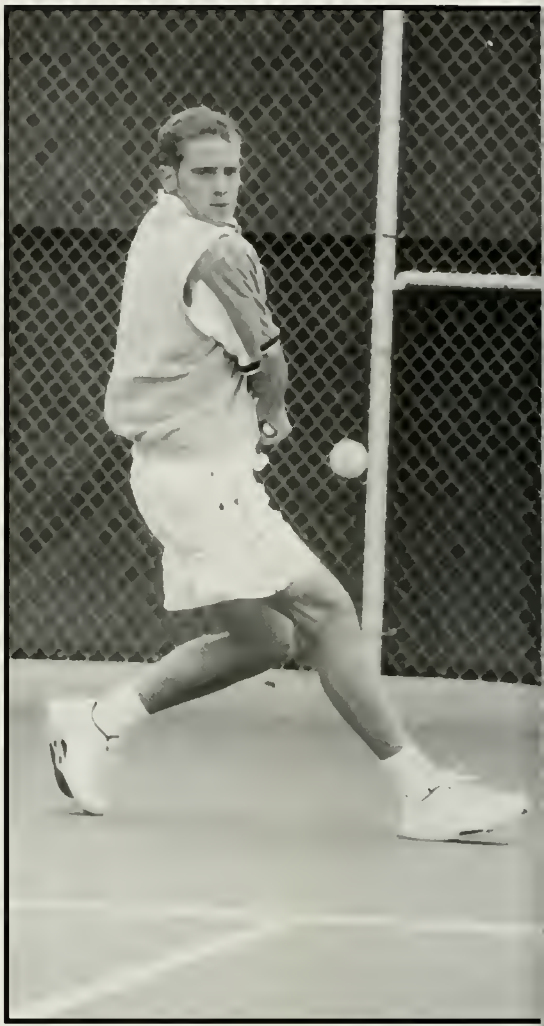
Foreman makes waves at clay court championships

Oliver Foreman won two matches at the National Clay Court Championships and advanced to the main draw of the tournament.

Foreman, not considered one of the Blue Raiders top clay court players, won his two qualifying matches easily over two opponents from American University. In the first round Foreman defeated Ed Procacci 6-3, 7-6. In the qualifying match, Foreman won in straight sets over Procaccis teammate LL Bence Hamori 6-2, 6-1.

The win puts Foreman in the main draw of his first-ever collegiate grand slam event. He will join teammate Daniel Klemetz, who earned a spot in the tournament due to his No. 81 ranking in the nation. Klemetz and Robert Gustafsson are also in the main draw in doubles.

"This is a great way for us to start the season," commented head coach Dale Short. "Having three of our players represented at the Clay Courts shows that we are on the right track."



Pellerin, Short take doubles title

The Middle Tennessee Fall Invitational, constantly hampered by rains and eventually moving indoors to The Raquet Club, saw Middle Tennessee take the doubles title with a strange duo.

Senior Captain Mark Pellerin and Freshman Trevor Short earned their first-ever tournament title in doubles with their third win in the tournament over Michael Chamberlain and Joe Schmulian of Memphis.

"It's a great start for Mark and Trevor," said head coach Dale Short. "I'm really excited for Mark. As a senior he is really beginning to show his leadership. They are going to be a big help for our doubles team. Obviously, I am happy for Trevor to be able to win in his first tournament."

Bouldin honored for program's success

By Chad R. Wood

An educator, mentor, and motivator.

Walking up to the Middle Tennessee tennis courts, these are the words you will see on a sign describing one man. His name is Granville Bouldin or "Buck" to people who know him.

Granville "Buck" Bouldin was recognized for his place in Middle Tennessee tennis history Sept. 9.

"If I had something for my name to represent, it would be tennis courts and these tennis courts particularly," said Bouldin. "It's hard for people not associated with tennis or Middle Tennessee to understand, but it pleases me immensely."

And for those who don't know Mr. Bouldin, the time is now. On the sign that bears his name it reads: *Buck breathed new life into the tennis program from 1965-71 lifting it from near obscurity to a perennial competitor.*

Bouldin took over a tennis program in 1964 that had won two matches in four years. In his first season, he led the Blue Raiders to an incredible 10-1 record earning him the first of two OVC Coach of the Year honors. The second came in 1968.

Bouldin earned his undergraduate and law degrees from Washington and Lee University and earned a masters degree from Middle Tennessee. In his final year at Washington and Lee, Bouldin directed its tennis program for one season.

Bouldin began practicing law in the mid-state area in 1951 after leaving Washington and Lee. Bouldin also spent several years in the Marine Corp before returning to Murfreesboro, where he would eventually lead the Blue Raider tennis program out of the depths of mediocrity.

"Some of those kids were so discouraged by their experience they went to the president to voice that it was unfair and unkind not to make an effort," recalls Bouldin. "They felt they weren't being treated fairly."

Disturbed by the student-athletes concern, Quill Cope, who was the University president at that time decided to make a change. Charles Murphy was the first to contact Bouldin about taking over as head coach of the tennis team.

> "If I had something for my name to represent, it would be tennis courts and these tennis courts particularly.It's hard for people not associated with tennis or Middle Tennessee to understand, but it pleases me immensely."
>
> *Granville "Buck" Bouldin*

"The team had been coached by an art teacher and he basically set up there and drew during the tennis matches," said Bouldin. "They asked how much would I charge to be the coach, and I asked them what they paid the teacher the year before. They said $600, and I said I would do it for that."

Bouldin went on to lead the tennis program against some of the best competition in the country and did it with class. Despite the tough challenge they faced, Bouldin ended his coaching tenure with an 83-42 record.

"We never had any dream to getting where Dale (Short) has gotten the program," says Bouldin. "What we were trying to do was get competitive in the OVC. All anyone aspired to was to get competitive. What Dale is trying to do now is get competitive in the nation."

Although the challenge is great in 2000, the idea parallels what Bouldin was trying to accomplish in the '60s. Now his role has changed. There is perhaps no bigger supporter of the Blue Raider tennis program than himself, and even today he still serves wherever he can help.

"There have to be some things you care about to keep daily existence from being bleak and boring," says Bouldin. "There are a lot of benefits to being around young people and the kids here have done a good job of tolerating me."

The Blue Raiders of today continue to build on the success of the past. Bouldin will be the first to say that the Pro-Am has a big impact on the ability of the program to progress.

Bouldin, of course gives a lot of credit to current coach Dale Short. "People just see the tip of the iceberg when they come out and watch the team play. They don't see all the things that go on with administration, the work in the office, and getting the kids to study. Dale has done a great job building this program."

Women's Tennis

Hojnik, tennis teams end with national ranking

For the second time in school history, Middle Tennessee's men's and women's tennis teams finished the season ranked in the nation's Top 75 during the same season, and Tina Hojnik became the first Lady Raider to be ranked at the end of the year.

The Lady Raiders ended the season ranked 64th in the nation while the men finished at number 63. Both teams also advanced to the NCAA Championships during the same season for the first time in history. The Lady Raiders' trip to Mobile, Ala., for the Regionals marked the first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance for the women's program.

The Lady Raiders also had another milestone as freshman Tina Hojnik became the first female tennis player at Middle Tennessee to end the season ranked in the nation's Top 100. Hojnik defeated Ole Miss' Ivona Mihailova, who was ranked No. 16 at the time, during the NCAA Regional. Hojnik's efforts earned her a ranking of 81 in the country.

"It is a great accomplishment for Tina," said head coach David Thornton. "She played very well during the year and it is fitting that she finally got in there at the end of the season. It's shame that she will not be back with us next season."

Hojnik has returned to her home country, Slovenia, and likely will not return to the United States.

Middle Tennessee officially became a member of the Sun Belt Conference on July 1. Tennis will begin Sun Belt competition during the spring of 2001.

2000 Results (21-9, 10-0)

Date	Opponent	Site	Result
Jan. 15	Austin Peay*	Clarksville, TN	W 9-0
	Belmont	Clarksville, TN	W 7-0
Jan. 17	Mississippi	Oxford, MS	L 2-7
Jan. 22	Vanderbilt	Nashville, TN	L 1-8
	Rice	Nashville, TN	W 5-3
Jan.30	Georgia Tech.	Atlanta, GA	L 2-7
Feb.5	Tennessee	Knoxville, TN	L 1-7
Feb.12	Memphis	Memphis, TN	W 9-0
Feb.18	Mississippi State	Starkville, MS	L 2-7
Feb.20	Auburn	Auburn, AL	W 5-4
Mar. 4	Troy State	Murfreesboro	W 9-0
	Alabama-Bir.	Murfreesboro	W 8-1
Mar.5	Arkansas State	Murfreesboro	W 7-2
Mar.8	Louisville	Murfreesboro	W 8-1

Continued on Page 260

MTSU Photographic Services

Sarah Grohnert shows off her serve (left) while Michaela Gridling attacks with a backhand (top) and saves a low volley (bottom).

MTSU Photographic Services

Tina Hojnik makes sure she got the point.

Date	Opponent	Site	Result
Mar.17	Arkansas-Little Rock	Murfreesboro	W 6-3
Mar.19	Georgia State	Murfreesboro	W 7-2
Mar.21	Tennessee-Chattanooga	Murfreesboro	W 8-1
Mar.27	Tulane	New Orleans, LA	L 4-5
Mar.28	South Alabama	Mobile, AL	L 0-9
Apr.2	Eastern Illinois	Murfreesboro	W 5-0
	Kentucky	Murfreesboro	L 3-5
Apr.9	Murray State*	Murfreesboro	W 8-1
Apr.16	Morehead State*	Murfreesboro	W 9-0
	Eastern Kentucky*	Murfreesboro	W 9-0
Apr.18	Tennessee Tech*	Murfreesboro	W 9-0
	Tennessee State*	Murfreesboro	W 9-0
Apr.20	Tennessee State#	Nashville, TN	W 5-0
Apr.21	Tennessee-Martin#	Nashville, TN	W 5-0
May13	Ole Miss^	Mobile, Ala.	L1-5

* OVC matches
# OVC Tournament
^ NCAA Regional

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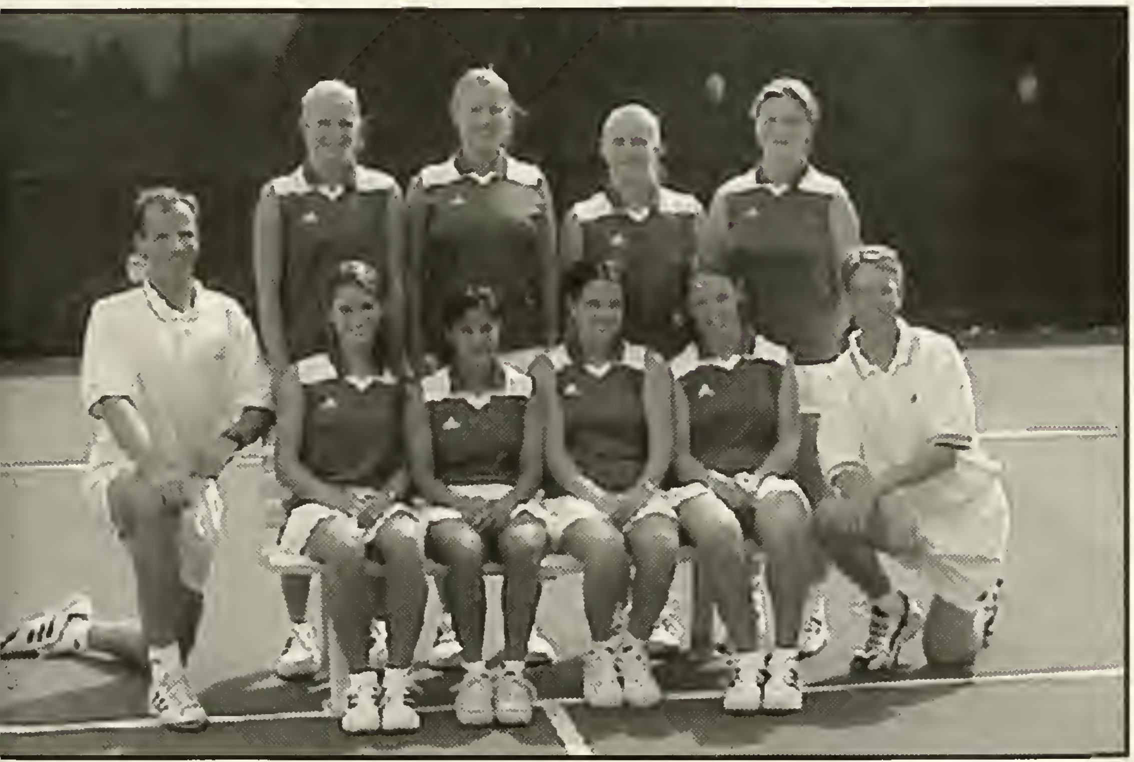
Sarah Grohnert gives it her all.

MTSU Photographic Services

Tanya Buchheim stretches for one.


MTSU Photographic Services

Front (left to right):
Head Coach David Thornton, Sarah Grohnert, Niger Kaur, Laurie Ferguson, Michaela Gridling, and Asst. Coach Joey Hall.

Back: Stacy Varnell, Tina Hojnik, Tanja Buchheim, and Katja Kuehner.

Softball attends first NCAA Tournament

The Middle Tennessee softball team defeated Southeast Missouri State University, 3-1 and 3-1, to advance to its first ever NCAA tournament appearance. The Lady Raiders advanced through the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament without a single loss.

"We were in the driver's seat from the beginning," said Middle Tennessee head coach Karen Green.

"I think winning one game on Thursday and going home was a tremendous boost for us. Getting that bye in the first round and coming back to play only a couple games while they had to play several in one day was a big advantage for us. I think our kids were very relaxed after winning the regular season. They didn't feel like they had anything to lose, and it showed on the field."

2000 Roster

All photos by MTSU Photographic Services

00	Amanda Kendall
1	Erica Buhl
3	Katie McGraw
4	Lisa Sherman
7	Courtney Wallace
8	Lindsay Azevedo
9	Liz Polfus
10	Jennifer Polsteen
11	Ashlie Way
12	Kip Phillips
14	Jennifer Martinez
17	Laura Brockman
18	Steffi Silva
19	Kelly Cormier
21	Stayc Preator
22	Wendy Pollock
30	Kristina Hieb

Six softball players named All OVC

Six Lady Raiders were honored as members of the 2000 All-Ohio Valley Conference Softball Team. The awards, which are voted on by the league's head coaches, were presented at a banquet held in conjunction with the OVC Softball Tournament

Sophomore pitcher Jennifer Martinez was named First Team All-OVC and repeated as OVC Pitcher of the Year. She is only the second OVC player in history to earn back-to-back Pitcher of Year awards. She lead the league and ranked 17th nationally in strikeout ratio with 8.2 K's per seven innings. She also topped the conference in strikeouts (211) for the second straight year, tied for second in wins (18) and ranked third in innings pitched (181.0).

Senior first baseman Shay Haskell also earned a spot on the All-OVC First Team, her third straight. She batted .282 this season with 16 RBI, 18 runs scored and three homeruns.

Four other Lady Raiders earned a place on the All-OVC Second Team. Senior Carisa Chavez and freshman Stayc Preator picked up their first conference honors, while sophomores Steffi Silva and Laura Brockman each received their second award.

Softball goes to NCAA tournament

The Middle Tennessee softball team defeated Southeast Missouri, 3-1 and 3-1, to advance to its first ever NCAA tournament appearance. The Lady Raiders advanced through the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament without a single loss.

"We were in the driver's seat from the beginning," said Middle Tennessee head coach Karen Green. "I think winning one game on Thursday and going home was a tremendous boost for us. Getting that bye in the first round and coming back to play only a couple games while they had to play several in one day was a big advantage for us. I think our kids were very relaxed after winning the regular season. They didn't feel like they had anything to lose, and it showed on the field."

Team sweeps Lady Raider Invitational

By Brian Albertson

The Middle Tennessee softball team won the Lady Raider Invitational with a 1-0 victory over Belmont in the final game. Laura Brockman was voted Most Valuable Player of the tournament. Erica Buhl and Steffi Silva were named to the All-Tournament Team.

Jennifer Martinez pitched a complete game against Belmont, giving up only four hits and striking out eight. Melanie Manley scored the only run of the game in the first inning off a Belmont error. She finished the game 1-for-3 from the plate.

With only one out in the bottom of the seventh, the Lady Bruins put the tying run on first base. Steffi Silva made a brilliant diving catch on a line drive and recovered to throw to first base for the pick-off double play to end the game.

Steffi Silva had the only other hit for the Lady Raiders against Belmont's Sabrina Ryles who pitched the complete game.

It took a come from behind win over Miami (Ohio) to enter the final game. The Lady Raiders trailed the Red Hawks 3-4 heading into the final inning of that game.

Two walks and an error would load the bases to begin the inning for Middle Tennessee. Steffi Silva singled to left center scoring Manley. A wild pitch would score Erica Buhl just before a Kerry Allen double gave the Lady Raiders the lead, scoring both Silva and Laura Brockman.

Silva finished 2-for-3 with one run scored and two RBI. Amanda Kendall picked up the win in relief for Stayc Preator who gave up four hits in 2.1 innings. Kendall finished the game with two earned runs off seven hits and four strikeouts.

Amanda Kendall finished the tournament with a 2-0 record, giving up only eight hits and striking out 14 for a 1.20 ERA.

Martinez was also dominant on the mound. She finished the tournament with a 2-1 record, pitching 20.2 innings with a 1.68 ERA. She struck out 24 of the 71 batters she faced.

Lady Raiders win OVC season title

As Eastern Illinois lost their last two games to Eastern Kentucky am air of celebration was moving over Middle Tennessee.

With Eastern Illinois uable to finish better than 16-6 in OVC season play the door opened for another team to move in.

Middle Tennessee finished with a 16-5 record in league play and clinched its first Ohio Valley Conference regular season championship.

By securing the top spot in the conference, Middle Tennessee is also given the honor of hosting the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament.

Baseball

Team leaves OVC with Tournament Win

Middle Tennessee made it a clean sweep of the OVC spring sports by claiming the league's baseball tournament with an 11-4 win over the #2 seed Southeast Missouri.

The Blue Raiders captured a win that goes down in history as the final OVC game for Middle Tennessee athletics.

The championship marks the 11th time that the Blue Raiders have won the tournament crown and the ensuing NCAA bid will mark the ninth in the team's history.

The fireworks started in the bottom of the first inning for the Blue Raiders against sophomore right-hander Brandon Smith.

> “What can I say about Bryan Peck except that the man is a hitting machine? He, along with the other seniors, can now raise a championship flag at Reese Smith Field that will forever display their accomplishment. All year we have said that this team has had a good year. Today makes it a great year.”
>
> *Coach Steve Peterson*

With one out, back-to-back singles from Kris Lammers and Josh Pride put runners aboard for Bryan Peck. Peck continued his assault of the OVC Tournament with a two-run double off the wall in center field.

After a Justin Links flyout to left field, Kyle Thomas drew a walk. With two more runners on base Jeff Parsons delivered a single to center field that got away from Kevin Meyer and allowed both runners to cross home plate.

The Blue Raiders would add three more runs in the bottom of the second. Wes Whitehead led off the frame with a solid single to left and promptly stole second. Josh Renick then drew a walk that chased Smith from the game in favor of Indian ace Lanson Debrock.

Pride came to the plate after a Lammers strikeout and promptly delivered a triple to right center field that brought Whitehead and Renick in to score. Peck again delivered with a runner at third, lifting a high fly ball into left field that allowed Pride to score easily.

The Indians would not go quietly, however. In the top of the third with one away, Meyer reached on a Renick error. Then Blue Raider starter Jamie Powers surrendered back-to-back bases on balls to bring Darin Kinsolving to the plate.

Davis proceeded to pitch the next 4-2/3 innings without allowing a hit and walking only one SEMO batter that was subsequently erased on a double play. In fact, Davis would complete the game allowing only two hits and not allowing a runner to advance beyond second base. The Blue Raiders would continue to bang away at Southeast Missouri.

In the fourth inning it was the 2-3-4 spots in the order that did the damage again. Lammers singled and Pride was hit by a Debrock pitch to bring up Peck. Again, Peck came through. He smoked a liner down the third base line and into the left field corner for a double that plated both runners. Peck finished the day 2-for-4 with five RBI's and also broke his own single season record for doubles with 24 this season.

The Blue Raiders put the game out of reach for good in the seventh inning. A Kyle Thomas triple with Justin Links aboard brought in the tenth run and Brandon Johnson turned in a single that brought Thomas home to seal the deal.

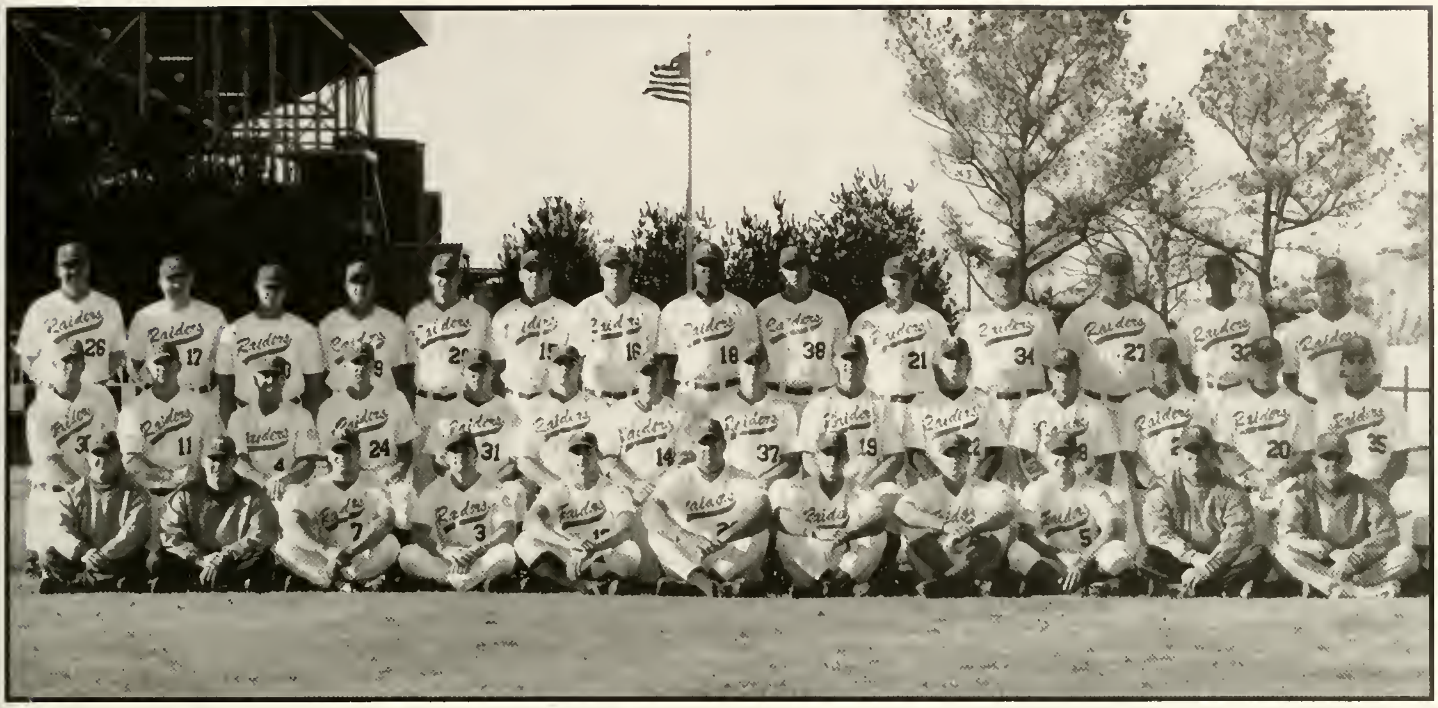
"What can I say about Bryan Peck except that the man is a hitting machine?" said head coach Steve Peterson after his 400th win at the helm of the Middle Tennessee program.

"He, along with the other seniors, can now raise a championship flag at Reese Smith Field that will forever display their accomplishment. All year we have said that this team has had a good year. Today makes it a great year.".

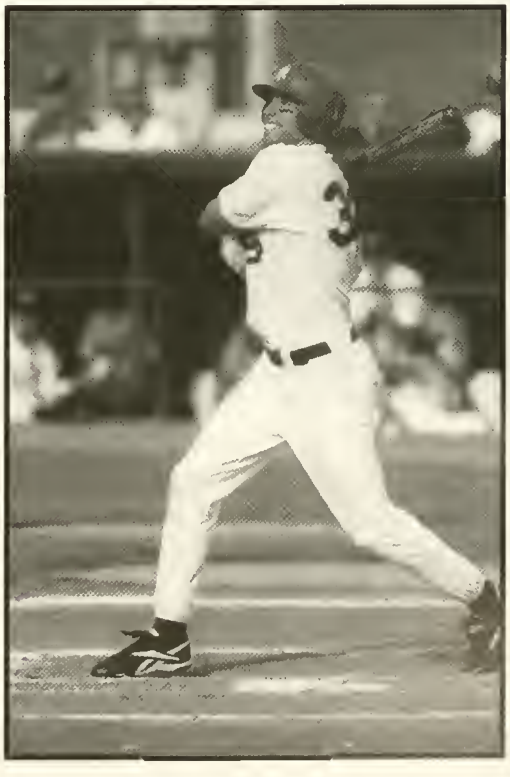
"I didn't even realize that this would be my 400th win," Peterson said."I don't keep up with that kind of thing too much, but it is very special for that milestone to be reached by winning a championship".

The Blue Raiders also were well represented on the All-Tournament team. Peck was named the MVP while Pride, Lammers, Parsons, and Davis were also named to the squad.

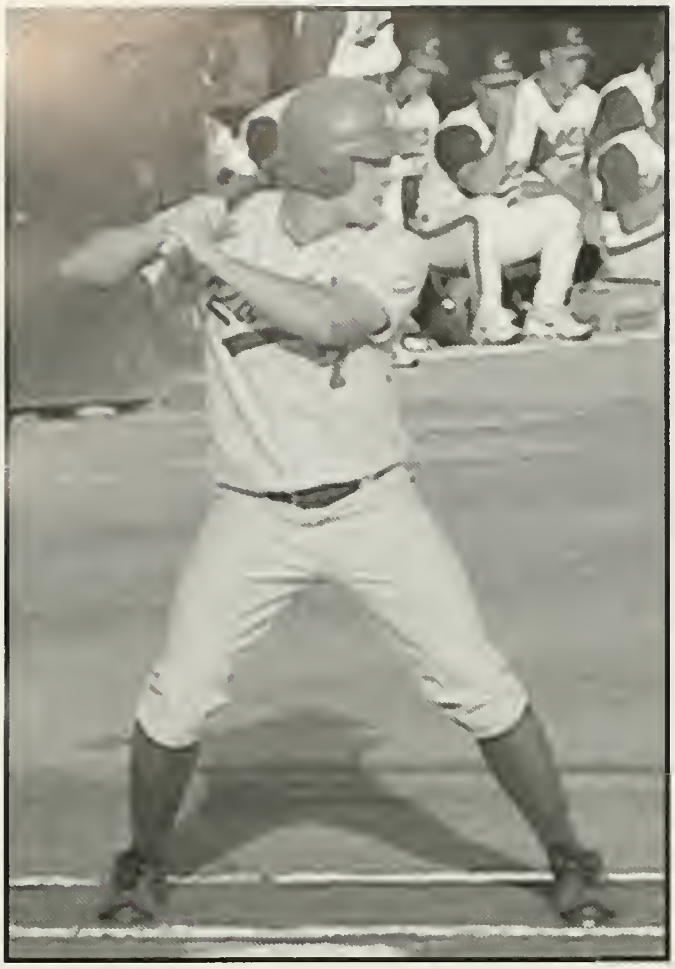
2000 Roster



#1 Jason Conchin Sr.
#3 Justin Sims Fr.
#4 Josh Renick Jr.
#5 Phillip Campbell So.
#6 Jason Howarth So.
#7 Bryan Peck Sr.
#9 Kyle Skillman Jr.
#10 Kyle Thomas Jr.
#11 Scott Goodmon Jr.
#12 Brad Howard Sr.
#14 Nic Stone Jr.
#15 Doug Kunicki So.
#16 Kevin Davis Jr.
#18 Dewon Brazelton So.
#19 Steven Kines So.
#21Jamison Sliger Jr.
#22 Jamie Powers Sr.
#23 Wes Whitehead Sr.
#24 Jeff Parsons Sr.
#27 Greg Brannon So.
#28 Jason Moates Jr.
#29 Kris Lammers Jr.
#30 Kyle Sparkman So.
#31 Josh Pride Sr.
#32 Jason Roberts Sr.
#33 Justin Links Sr.
#34 Jeremy Armstrong So.
#35 Brett Allen Jr.
#36 Brandon Johnson Jr.
#37 Matthew Griffith Fr.
#38 Tjerk Smeets So.
#39 Daniel Ethridge Fr.
#43 Jeff Marcus Fr.
#47 Kris Smith Jr.
#25 Steve Peterson
Head Coach
#26 Jim McGuire
Asst. Coach
#20 Mike McLaury
Asst. Coach
#17 Justus Scott
Asst. Coach
#8 Chris Treadway
Student Asst. Coach



Draft hopefuls show their stuff to scouts



Bryan Peck, one of three Blue Raiders drafted last June by major league baseball teams, shows his stuff.

The Middle Tennessee baseball program held its annual Scout Day on Thursday at Reese Smith Field in front of 25 major league scouts. The Blue Raiders were timed in the 60-yard dash and took infield before playing a nine-inning intrasquad game.

"This is a big day for our players each year," head coach Steve Peterson said. "Luckily, we have the type players who warrant this type of attention from major league scouts."

It was no secret that most of the attention on Thursday was directed at junior righthander Dewon Brazelton, who is coming off the best summer of any Blue Raider in school history. Brazelton was a member of the USA National Team and completed the summer with a dazzling 6-0 won-loss mark and a USA record 0.65 ERA. Brazelton did not disappoint as he threw constantly in the 94 to 95 MPH range and was able to reach 96 on one occassion.

"He is the best we have ever had here as far as talent, arm action and size," Peterson said. "But not necessarily performance. In overall talent, however, he is the best we've had."

"Right now Dewon is being projected as a very high draft pick and will be considered as one of the top three of four college pitchers in the country this season. It's just a compliment that he chose Middle Tennessee to begin his career."

The scouts were also interested in second baseman Josh Renick and pitcher Jason Moates. The beauty of Scout Day is the fact someone always has a chance to be uncovered that was not previously recognized.

"It's just a great opportunity for our players and this university," Peterson said.

Peck; Pride named to OVC tournament first team

Two Middle Tennessee players received First Team All-OVC baseball teamhonors at the OVC Tournament. Outfielder Bryan Peck and catcher Josh Pride were rewarded for their efforts by being elected to the First Team by the league's coaches and baseball media relations directors.

Peck, a native of Athens, Tenn., is leading the Blue Raiders in nearly every offensive category. He is batting .403 with 21 doubles, 14 homers, and 68 RBI's. He also has racked up 83 hits on the year. His selection marks the second consecutive year that he has been on the OVC's First Team.

Peck is ranked in the top 10 in the OVC in several of these categories as well, leading the league in runs batted in. He could set new single season records in hits, RBI's, doubles and slugging percentage this season. He should break the career slugging percentage mark as well.

Pride, a native of Brentwood, Tenn., was elected for the second straight year as well. Coming off of a career year in which he was named OVC Player of the Year, his numbers have again been solid.

He is batting .312 this season with 10 home runs and 40 RBI's. Pride already owns the career home run record along with the single season slugging percentage mark. He is on track to set the career runs record as well.

"Both of these young men are very deserving of this honor. I can't say enough good things about them and what they have meant to our team this year," said head coach Steve Peterson.

"The one thing I wish that people could know about Bryan is that he is an even better person than he is a player. That should tell you what kind of person he is because he is an outstanding player," Peterson added.

Three Blue Raiders taken in draft

Three Middle Tennessee Players were taken in the Major League Baseball Amateur Draft in June.

The Colorado Rockies took right fielder Bryan Peck in the 22nd round, the 647th overall pick. Even though Peck spent the 2000 season on right field for Steve Peterson, the Rockies have tabbed him as a third baseman.

Pecks credentials couldn't be much better. During his senior campaign, he batted .405 with 94 hits 25 doubles, 17 homers 81 RBI's 174 total bases and a slugging percentage of .750. Of those numbers, he set new single season records in hits, doubles, RBI's and total bases, and slugging percentage. He went on to set a career mark in slugging percentage as well. His .405 batting average is the second highest in MT history. Peck also ended his career hitting .373, one point shy of the career mark.

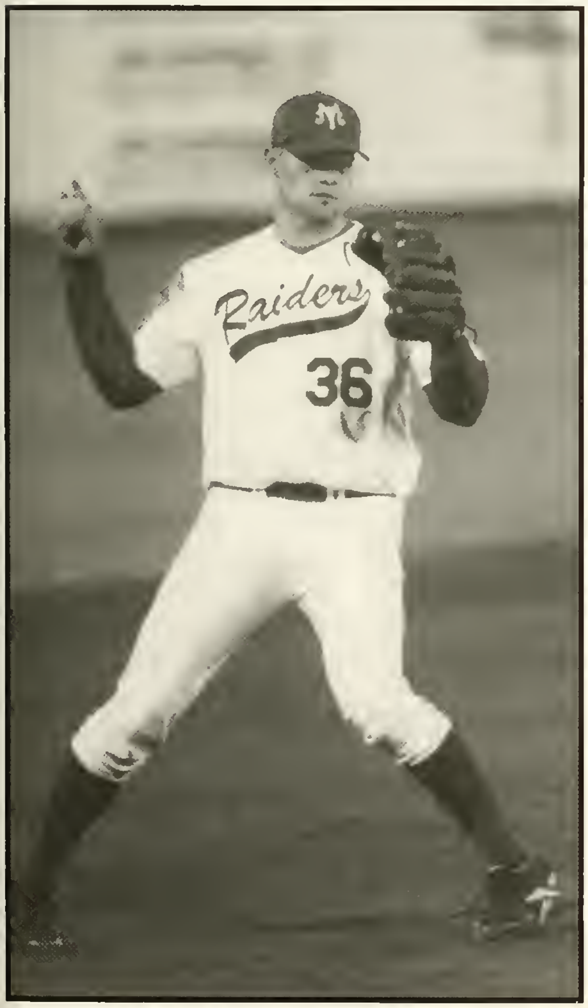
Colorado dipped into the Blue Raider pool again in the 23rd round, taking catcher Josh Pride with the 677th overall pick. Pride was the OVC player of the year in 1999 and followed up with another solid season in 2000. He hit .309 as the everyday catcher and put up 10 homers and 44 RBI's. he ended his career as the all-time home run king at MT with 44 dingers.

Right-handed pitcher Jason Moates became the third Blue Raider Drafted when he went in the 28th round to the Cincinnati Reds as the 843rd overall pick. Moates, who was tabbed as a player to watch in the draft by baseball America, went 1-1 this season with a 4.79 ERA. He was limited to 20-2/3 innings of work in only four appearances due to a nagging elbow injury that ultimately resulted in a season ending surgery. Moates transferred to MT from Alabama prior to the 2000 season. He was clocked in the mid 90's early in the year before the elbow trouble began.

The 2000 draft marks the fifth straight year that the Blue Raiders have had at least one player selected by a Major League club. Last season, left-handed reliever Aaron Barnett was the lone pick, going in the 22nd round to the Detroit Tigers.

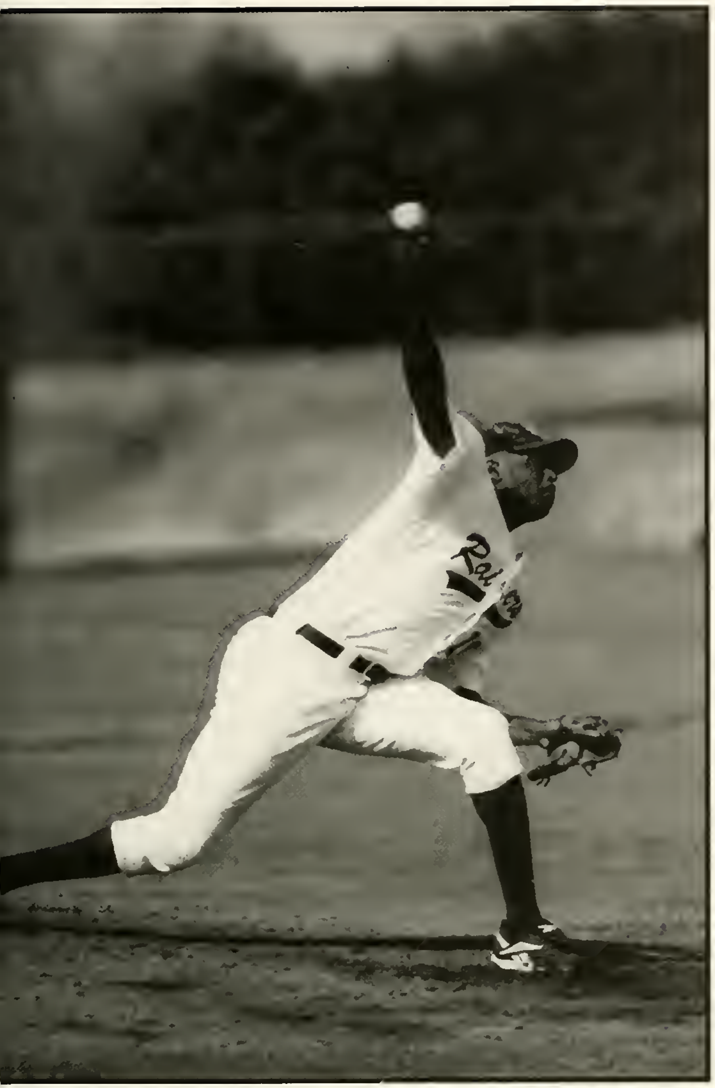
In total, 63 former Blue raiders have gone on to professional baseball.

Currently, one former Blue Raider is on a big league roster. Reserve infielder Jason Maxwell is playing with the Minnesota twins after being drafted in 1993 by the Chicago Cubs.



2000 Schedule

Date	Opposing Team	Score W-L
FEB 18 AT	SE LOUISIANA	5-10 L
FEB 19 AT	SE LOUISIANA	4-5 L
FEB 20 AT	SE LOUISIANA	1-6 L
FEB 26	INDIANA	W 9-8
FEB 2	INDIANA	6-17 L
FEB 29 AT	MEMPHIS	W 12-4
MAR 1 AT	MEMPHIS	W 6-2
MAR 4 AT	SW MISSOURI	6-13 L
MAR 4 AT	SW MISSOURI	3-4 L
MAR 5 AT	SW MISSOURI	3-10 L
MAR 6	YALE	1-4 L
MAR 7	SO MISSISSIPPI	3-7 L
MAR 8	SO MISSISSIPPI	W 7-3
MAR 12	DAYTON	W 4-1
MAR 12	DAYTON	W 6-2
MAR 15	JACKSONVILLE ST	W 13-2
MAR 16	YALE	W 11-2
MAR 18	U.T. MARTIN	W 9-3
MAR 18	U.T. MARTIN	W 7-1
MAR 21 AT	UAB	3-5 L
MAR 22 AT	UAB	4-6 L
MAR 24 AT	U.W. MILAWAUKEE	W 4-3
MAR 24 AT	U.W. MILAWAUKEE	W 4-3
MAR 25 AT	U.W. MILAWAUKEE	3-5 L
MAR 28	UAB	W 4-2
MAR 29	UAB	W 6-2
MAR 29	UAB	W 6-2
APR 1	AUSTIN PEAY	W 6-5
APR 1	AUSTIN PEAY	4-6 L
APR 2	AUSTIN PEAY	W 7-6
APR 4	TENNESSEE	1-2 L
APR 8 AT	SE. MISSOURI	2-3 L
APR 8 AT	SE. MISSOURI	0-2 L
APR 9 AT	SE. MISSOURI	W 8-5
APR 12	MEMPHIS	W 10-3
APR 15	MOREHEAD ST	W 11-0
APR 15	MOREHEAD ST	W 8-0
APR 16	MOREHEAD ST	W 8-7
APR 18	VANDERBILT	W 9-8
APR 21 AT	MURRAY ST	W 7-6
APR 21 AT	MURRAY ST	W 7-2
APR 22 AT	MURRAY ST	W 5-2
APR 25 AT	JACKSONVILLE ST	W 16-5
APR 26 AT	WEST. KENTUCKY	W 11-6
APR 29 AT	TENNESSEE TECH	W 5-0
APR 29 AT	TENNESSEE TECH.	W 10-4
APR 30 AT	TENNESSEE TECH.	0-9 L
MAY 2 AT	VANDERBILT	4-9 L
MAY 6	EAST. KENTUCKY	W 12-2
MAY 6	EAST. KENTUCKY	0-2 L
MAY 7	EAST. KENTUCKY	7-11 L
MAY 10 AT	TENNESSEE	0-7 L
MAY 13 AT	EAST. ILLINOIS	W 13-12
MAY 13 AT	EAST. ILLINOIS	W 8-5
MAY 14 AT	EAST. ILLINOIS	W 6-5
MAY 18	EAST. ILLINOIS	W 4-3
MAY 18 AT	SE. MISSOURI	W 3-2
MAY 19	EAST. KENTUCKY	W 6-4
MAY 20	SE MISSOURI	W 11-4
MAY 26 AT	CLEMSON	0-4 L
MAY 27	OLD DIMINION	W 6-5
MAY 27	ILLINOIS	W 4-3
MAY 28	CLEMSON	3-21 L



Photos by MTSU Photographic Services

Brazelton makes history, USA National team

Dewon Brazelton became the first Blue Raider to make the US National team last summer.

The team was comprised of 22 collegiate all-stars from around the country. Brazelton helped his cause in the trials by pitching three scoreless innings and picking up a win in the team's 17-2 thrashing of Mexico.

"I'm enthused. Its a dream come true for me," said Brazelton.

"We had a flyer from USA Baseball at the clubhouse last year and I talked to Coach [Jim] McGuire about the possibility of trying out and making the team, but I really didn't think I had much of a chance. What a difference a year makes."

"It is a tremendous honor and opportunity for Dewon. It says quite a bit to be selected to represent your country as one of the top freshman and sophomore pitchers in the country," said Middle Tennessee head coach Steve Peterson.

Brazelton had a solid sophomore year for the Blue Raiders, going 7-3 with a 4.83 ERA. He led the team in innings pitched with 98-2/3 while striking out a team-high 98 batters.

Head Coach Mike Gillespie, who recently coached his Southern Cal team in the College World Series, said that Brazelton was not an unknown commodity coming into the trials.

"We knew a reasonable amount about Dewon before he got here. We got a strong recommendation on him from the Middle Tennessee coaching staff and we began tracking him in the fall. We kept tabs on him all year through coaches and scouts that had seen him play."

Brazelton's outstanding performance against Old Dominion in the NCAA Regionals certainly helped his cause, too.

Gillespie said, "Tim Corbin from Clemson is on our staff here and he saw Dewon pitch in the Regionals and was very impressed with his ability. All of the indications that we've gotten on him look to be true. He's got a big arm with great velocity and an outstanding change-up.

"Most of all he was dominant in the game against Mexico the other night. There really was no discussion on whether or not he would make the team."

Gillespie continued, "Dewon is a very loose young man. He has a great personality and a good sense of humor. I think he is going to be a pleasure to have around the clubhouse this summer."

Peterson summed things up by saying, "I'm very proud of Dewon. I have been around baseball long enough to know who has talent and he has talent. He can become a great pitcher. It is also a great feather in the cap of our program at Middle Tennessee."

Rob Jordan goes for distance.

All-American hurdler Ron Bramlett makes the jump.

Bramlett earns All-Amerian honors; Jordan Male Athlete of the Year

Ron Bramlett can now be considered one the best hurdlers in Middle Tennessee history. Bramlett's fourth place finish at the NCAA Championships in the 110-meter hurdles propelled him to all-American status. Bramlett is the first male athlete in track to earn all-American in a hurdles event. The sophomore from Clarksville, Tenn., also won the conference titles in the 110 and 55-meter hurdles.

Rob Jordan, a native of Orlando, Fla., was named the OVC's Male Athlete of the Year following the conference Outdoor Championships. Jordan won both the long jump and triple jump in the OVC Outdoor Championships and went on to place 16th in the NCAA long jump event. Jordan is also a member of two relay teams which won conference titles.

Men's Track

lembers of the relay team keeps things moving.

Blue Raiders chase Olympic Dreams

Several current and former Blue Raider track and field standouts chased dreams at the 2000 Olympics Trials last summer.

Godfrey Herring and Roland McGee participated in the United States Olympic trials July 13.

Herring, who earned All-American status during the 2000 Indoor season, attempted to qualify in the 400-meters. Herring battled a hamstring injury during the end of the year, limiting his performances during the Outdoor season. However, he did run one of the fastest collegiate times of the year in the 400-meters.

McGee attempted to qualify in the long jump. He still holds school records in the long jump as well as the 100 and 200-meters.

Three other Blue Raiders also competed in Olympic trials in Ghana. Albert Agyemang, Tanko Braimah and Christian Nsiah competed for the right to represent Ghana at the 2000 Olympics.

Agyemang and Braimah finished first and second, respectively, at the OVC Championships in the 100 and 200-meters this past season. Agyemang also placed second in the 100 and 200-meters at the Sun Belt Championships.

Nsiah, a former sprint champion, was a two-time All-American for the Blue Raiders. Nsiah earned All-American honors in the 200-meters in 1996 and ended his Indoor career by earning All-American in 60-meters in 1999.

Women's Track

Lady Raiders take second in OVC

By Keith Ryan Cartwright

Triple Jump champ Andreja Ribac makes a jump.

Leaving a lasting impression on the Ohio Valley Conference was something the Middle Tennessee track and field program was hoping to do entering the 2000 outdoor championships.

Andreja Ribac did just that.

The Slovenia native shattered the OVC triple jump with a leap 43-feet, 7.25-inches, breaking the previous of 42-feet, 5.5-inches set by former Lady Raider Jacqui Brown in 1994.

It is the second year in a row Ribac – whose record-setting mark automatically qualifies her for the upcoming NCAA Outdoor Championships – has the won the event. Ribac also won the indoor triple jump championship in January.

Doreisha Davis runs the 200.

The Lady Raiders as a team finished in second place behind Southeast Missouri, scoring 111 points to edge out Eastern Illinois by one point and 25 points out of first.

Tori Blander picked up a first place finish for the Lady Raiders in the 400-meter hurdles with a breakaway time of 1:00.34. It was a physically draining win for Blander, who just barreled over the final hurdle en route to the finish line. Freshman Willisa Heintz, a native of Texas, earned her first outdoor conference title with a time of 24.22 to win the 200 by .23. Heintz, who has made an immediate impact this year, finished a close second in the 100 -- just .02 out of first place.

The Lady Raiders earned a second place finish from Kapreia Kirk, who gutted out one final move in the closing meters of the 800. Kirk finished with a time of 2:12.57.

Kelley Smith also earned a medal for her third place finish in the 100.

Lady Raiders bring home MTSU's first Sun Belt Championship

This Raider flows over the hurdles.

By Chad Wood

The Lady Raider track team used their strong track events to pull out a one-point victory over South Alabama and in the process became the first team at Middle Tennessee to win a Sun Belt Championship.

After looking up most of the championships at the leaders, the Lady Raiders started chipping away at USA's lead during each sprint event. With one event remaining in the meet, the Lady Raiders found themselves two points in the lead. They had just enough in the 4x400-meter relays to hold off USA to claim the 2000 Sun Belt Championship 103 to 102.

"They just kept fighting," said head coach Dean Hayes. "Willisa (Heintz) really gave us a boost, and Kelley Smith really made a difference by scoring points in the heptathlon, but what really got us started today was the triple jump."

Andreja Ribac became the first individual athlete in NCAA history to win two different conference events in the same season with a jump of 12.9 meters in the triple jump.

Kim Freeman, who won Middle Tennessee's first individual Sun Belt title, placed third while Stephany Reid's fifth place finish provided a major boost for the team.

Other notable performances included Kapreia Kirk and Sabrina Smith's second and third place finishes in the 800-meters.

Tori Blander absolutely smoked the rest of the competition in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 59.78 to give Middle Tennessee its second individual Sun Belt Champion.

Although the Lady Raiders were unable to win the OVC in their final year, they were able to step up their performance to surprise the rest of the conference.

The Lady Raiders originally had been picked to place fourth in the contest.

The high jump only looks as if it is conquered with ease.

SBC Champion Lagat doesn't have typical running background

From Staff Reports

Geoffrey Lagat shows off his running form.

With the way the nation of Kenya has dominated distance racing during recent years, you would think the entire country gets together every afternoon for a brisk 10-mile run.

Kenyans have become so known for their distance running that the phrase "In my mind, I am a Kenyan" appears on T-shirts and bumper stickers.

But sophomore Geoffrey Lagat is different. Although born and raised in the small African nation, he did not spend his youth traipsing over mountain ranges wearing only his Nikes and a warm-up suit. He did not even begin running competitively until he came to the states just nine months ago.

"I just started training in finishing school," said Lagat. "I was playing basketball and soccer and tennis. I really don't know how I got into to it. But I'm glad I did."

On the other hand, participants of the Sun Belt Cross Country Championships wish he stuck with perfecting his jump shot.

During the championship race, Lagat reeled in two runners from Arkansas State and South Alabama with 800 meters to go to win the Sun Belt Conference title in a time of 25:07.

Coming from nowhere the win was a surprise to everyone but Lagat.

"Coach (Dean) Hayes and I agreed that I could compete for second place in the race," he said. During the banquet the day before the race, they announced the top 10 times of the year and my name wasn't even on the list. I think that gave me a lot of motivation for the next day."

"Right now, I'm working on the track and doing my speed work," says Lagat. "We do hills every Wednesday and run at least an 8K every day. Now I'm training to defend my title, and I'm working hard for it."

Cross Country

Cross Country season best in years

The MTSU Cross Country team had its best season in years and showed that there would be more good seasons to come.

The team's first meet at Austin Peay saw the Blue Raiders dominate the competition. Geoffrey Lagat took the top honors while Levi Sybert took second, Anthony McGary took third and four other Blue Raiders rounded out the Top 20.

In the team's second meet at Western Kentucky, Levi Sybert picked up as torch bearer when Lagat could not start due to illness. Sybert led the way for the Raiders with a 21st place finish, while Thomas Mbanda was 32nd and Anthony McGary ended in 35th to round out the Blue Raiders' top finishers.

Lagat returned to fine form as he finished fourth at the 2000 Commodore Cross Country Classic held at Percy Warner Park in Nashville.

Lagat finished just 46 seconds off the winning pace set by William Kemey of Belmont University. "I think that's the fastest time we've ever had on that course," said Coach Dean Hayes of Lagat's performance.

All four of the top finishers were natives of Kenya, however, of the four only Lagat and Kemey are collegiate participants. The Blue Raiders finished 10th as a team out of a field of 26 teams made up of universities from throughout the Southeast.

The team then placed second in a field of 12 schools at the Austin Peay Invitational cross country meet.

Lagat had another strong showing, finishing 18 seconds behind Arkansas State's Seth Bortey for second. "Geoffrey ran very well," said Hayes at the meet. "Bortey, who is from Ghana, is very good. Anthony McGary ran very well as did Levi (Sybert)." Sybert and McGary rounded out the Blue Raiders top finishers with fifth and seventh place finishes, respectively.

The season was rounded out in fitting form as Lagat took his first Sun Belt title, and the rest of the team put MTSU Cross Country on the map.

Lagat takes individual SunBelt title

Geoffrey Lagat claimed the Sun Belt Conference Cross County individual title after running the eight-kilometer course in 25:07, three seconds ahead of South Alabama s Alex Lopatyuk.

Lagat, who placed third in the 5,000 and 10,000-meter races at the Sun Belt Track and Field Championships in May, earned his first individual championship since joining the Blue Raiders.

The Blue Raiders had two other runners place in the top 25. Levi Sybert and Anthony McGary ended the meet 14th and 21st, respectively, in the field of 79.

As a team, Middle Tennessee earned a fourth place finish with another first-year member, North Texas, pulling off the upset over Western Kentucky to take the team title.

The Lady Raiders have basically used cross country to prepare for the spring track and field season and finished last out of the 12-team field. Sabrina Smith was the Lady Raiders top finisher.

GOLF TEAM CAPS OFF YEAR

After completing one of the best seasons in school history, the Middle Tennessee golf program earned honors by finishing among the nation's top 50 in collegiate golf polls. It marks the first time the Blue Raider golf program has ever been ranked in a final golf poll.

The Blue Raiders earned a ranking of 46th by "Golf Week Magazine" and were 50th by the MasterCard Collegiate Golf Rankings. Middle Tennessee was also the highest rated Sun Belt Conference team in both polls.

"We had a great year and I was extremely proud of our team for what they accomplished," head coach Johnny Moore said. "To be rated one of the top 50 golf teams in the country is pretty impressive. We proved all year long we could play with just about anybody and to earn this ranking is a wonderful honor."

The Middle Tennessee golf team ended its seasonwith a 17th place finish in the 27-team NCAA East Regional Golf Championship. The squad missed out on a championship berth by just 18 stokes.

Coach Moore gives instruction...

...and it is put to good use.

2000 Roster

Brett Alexander
Hunter Ingram
Dyar Jennings
Robby Knight
Matt McWilliams
Justin Miers
Stuart Pate
Dane Randle
Richard Spangler
Whit turnbow
J.R. Wade
Patrick Williams
Coach
Johnny Moore

Line it up...

...and make the putt.

Golf

Golfer Alexander Qualifies For U.S. Amateur

For the first time in school history, a Middle Tennessee golfer has qualified for the prestigious U.S. Amateur. Senior Brett Alexander, who won the Ohio Valley Conference title and led the Blue Raiders to their first NCAA regional this past spring, won medalist honors by six strokes at a qualifying tournament on July 27 in Springfield, Ill.

Alexander shot a 68-68 (136) on the Piper Glen Country Club course to earn one of two spots that were available at that site out of 65 golfers. Despite knowing he had a comfortable lead the final day, Alexander left little doubt about the outcome when he birdied 17 and 18 to easily out-distance the field.

"I have tried for four years to do this and finally everything came together with my game," Alexander said. "I have finished second on two different occasions, so it was great to finally get over the hump. Playing in the U.S. Amateur and the NCAA Championship will go down as the highlights of my career thus far. This is big, but I know I just have to stay relaxed and play my game. If I do that everything should work out."

The winner of the U.S. Amateur, which was Memphis native David Gossett last year, will earn exemptions to the Masters, U.S. Open and British Open.

Alexander is the all-time medalist winner in Blue Raider history.

"I am proud of Brett for what he has accomplished," Blue Raider golf coach Johnny Moore said. "He has everything it takes to play at the next level and I am glad he is getting the opportunity. Winning by six strokes at the qualifying is something unheard of in the golf world. It's hard to describe just how good that was."

Krisin Lynch (left) and Becky Newell (right) are two members of the new women's golf team.

Women's golf team is 2001 coming attraction

There will be a Women's Golf team seen out on the links alongside the men when students return for fall 2001 semester. As his last act before leaving, Athletic Director Lee Fowler hired the former head coach of Oral Roberts Women's Golf team, Kim St. John, to head up the founding of a women's golf team here at MTSU.

Kim St. John means business, and she's not going to let anything or anybody get in her way. St. John is charged with putting MT women's golf on the map, and she seems to have a very clear-cut plan in doing so.

"I'd like to get seven or eight players from in-state and I'd like to look at a couple of out-of-state players, and I want to be competing for a conference championship by the third year."

As an assistant and later on as a head coach, St. John took a nonexistent Oral Roberts University program and turned into the best program in the Mid-Continent Conference.

During her time as a head coach, she also turned several of her players into All-Conference performers and helped five of her players to top 10 season averages. "There are a lot of positives here," she says. "I don't want to say things are easier here than they were at Oral Roberts. It's just that I have more experience now and there won't be such a learning process involved. Hopefully, I can save us a couple of years in growing pains. There is so much support from the university and from the community. And I'm getting a lot of phone calls from people around here which is a good problem to have."

> “I think the first year will be a feeling-out process. And from there we should be able to tell where we are and where we need to be.”
>
> *Coach Kim St. John*

Already St. John has gotten four players to commit to Middle.

Tullahoma High School's Kristin Lynch signed a national letter of intent to play with the Blue Raiders beginning fall of 2001 last October, making her the first signee of the team.

Lynch was the No. 1 rated player in Tennessee last season and was a National High School Coaches Association All-American in 2000. Lynch, a two-time all-state performer, led Tullahoma to the Region 4 championship and finished third overall in the state. "You could not ask for a better player to start your program with," St. John said. "Kristin is a leader, an excellent student and simply a great person. She signifies what our program will be about."

Also signing last fall were Crossville's Kimmerlee Pennington, Louisville, Ky.'s Becky Newell and McLennan Junior College transfer Kandace Burnett. "I am really pleased with our early signees," St. John said. "The four we have at this point will give us a chance to be extremely competitive in our first season."

Pennington was recently named Tennessee's Class 3AAA Player of the Year. At Cumberland County High School, Pennington was a three-time district player of the year (1998-2000) and a four-time qualifier for the state tournament. She placed a career best sixth at the state tournament this past season.

"Kimmerlee will have an immediate impact on our program," St. John said. "She's a very strong player and one who will continue to get better. Blue Raider fans will hear a lot from her during her career."

Newell, another prep signee, hails from Louisville's Ballard High School. Newell placed second at the Kentucky Women's State Amateur this past summer and was rated among the 10 Best Girl Junior Golfers on the Baker-Geary-Dunne Championship Tour. "Becky is a very hard worker and a team player who will bring a lot to our program," St. John added. "She has a bright future with the Lady Raiders."

Burnett, a transfer from McLennan Junior College, is from Monahans, Texas. Burnett, who will be counted on for immediate leadership, is rated 11th nationally in the junior college ranks. "We are very pleased to have Kandace representing our program and this university," St. John said. "She brings with her, not only a strong golf game, but also much needed maturity and experience."

With her coaching at ORU, St. John also got a feel for the level of competition in the Sun Belt Conference. So, not only does she know how to get a new program off the ground, she also knows what her new program will be up against.

"I think the first year will be a feeling-out process," she says. "And from there we should be able to tell where we are and where we need to be."

Rugby

Rugby Club travels long road to top

Bart Butler officially founded the MTSU Rugby Club in the fall of 1980. There were previous attempts to start a Rugby Club at MTSU, but none were successful at gaining official club status.

As with any start-up venture, the club had its share of ups and downs, and many times the team had to pick up players from opponents at home games.

The club survived and slowly built up a roster of colorful characters that helped to mold the team. In those early years the club was filled with many nonstudents and the team did not participate in the official collegiate competition.

Now the program has grown, and MTSU repeated their 1999 triumph as South Champions in 2000 and returned to the national Championship in California. Unlike '99, this time the Moosemen finished seventh in the Nation. The team also filled the ranks of the South Collegiate All-Stars with 10 players who went on to win the National Collegiate All-Star.

The MTSU program has produced Rugby players who have competed competitively all across the USA. So far, it's had one super league player and multiple players participate in All-Star play. Lance Houia , a scholarship recipient, went on to become the first All-American. The club had three additional players named as All-Americans in 2000: Aaron Adoff, Cayo Nicolau, and Paul Jordan.

In addition to supporting MTSU Rugby, many MTSU graduates have been leaders in other rugby clubs across the region and volunteered their services to become union officials, referees and coaches.

The club celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2000. Through the years many individuals have sacrificed a lot of time and energy to insure the success of the program. Without a doubt, the club has come a long ways in a short amount of time. Rugby is truly one of the best team sports in the world that requires dedication on and off the field.

The 2000 Moosemen

Where's the ball? Rugby is a sport more about brute strength than anything!

Intramurals

Intramural players take their games just as serious as other athletes.

Fall 2000 Intramurals Champions

Flag Football

Men: The Mean Machine
Men B: Riders
CoRec: Jabronees
IFC-A: Beta Theta Pi
IFC-B Sigma Nu
Sorority: Chi Omega

Volleyball

CoRec: The Bomb Squad
IFC-A: SAE
IFC-B: SPE
Sorority: Kappa Delta
Men's Open: The Diggers

Soccer

Men's A: Imports B
IFC-A: BetaTheta Pi
IFC-B: Beta Theta Pi
CoRec: Shemales

Join an intramural team

Do you have a competitive side but don't exactly have the desire to be a full-time athlete?

Intramurals may be just what you are looking for. Each spring and fall semester, various enthusiasts form teams to compete against each other in on-campus contests.

Some of the sports that Campus Recreation offers in the Intramural Program are flag football, soccer, basketball, racquetball, indoor soccer, arena football, softball, bowling, handball and Wrestling. There is even a free throw and three-point contest.

Leagues are divided into men's open, sororities, fraternities, with A and B leagues and co-ed leagues called CoRec.

Campus Rec sends the best flag football team from the intramural league to compete against other schools' best flag footbal intramural team each fall. Last fall, MTSU came out the victor in the battle over the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga.

Photos by Elisa Fisk

Refs are especially needed for these games.

Outstanding intramural officials recognized for Fall 2000 semester

Flag Football: Alonz Hudgins, Jerrod Fletcher, Chewey Lam,Kenneth Bess, Richard Montgomery, Donnie Morris

Soccer: Brent Bigney, Chris Burtner, Kain Austin, Taurece Riley

Volleyball: Krystal Nicks, Jose Olivio, Colleen Cox

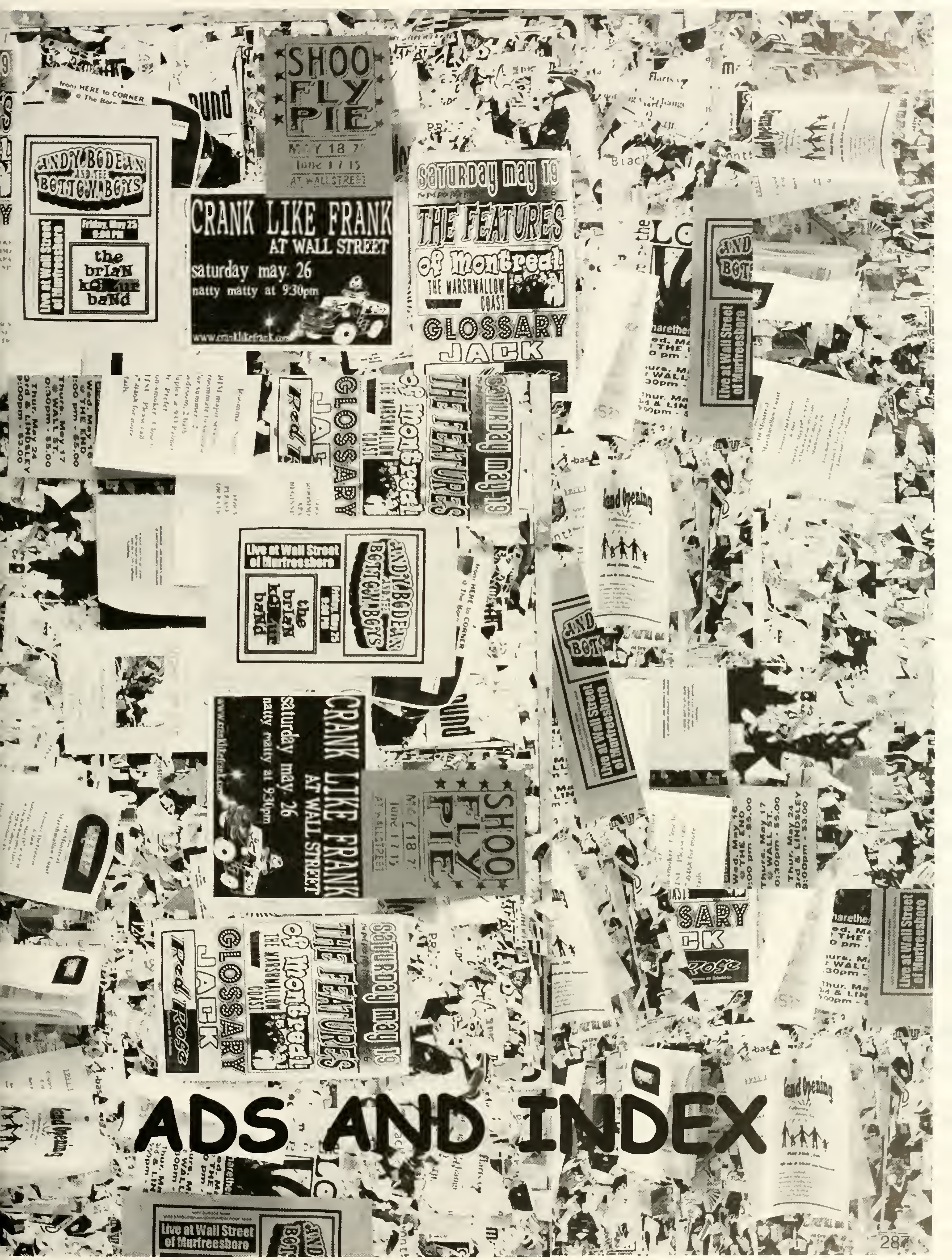
Sand volleyball is another popular IM sport, as well as the kayaking club sport.

Join a Club Sport

Intramural not your thing?

Try out one of the many outdoors and activities clubs that Campus Rec offers. Everything from Martial Arts to Backpacking and a range of other activities recently including Cycling and Baseball.

saturday may 19
THE FEATURES
of Montreal
THE MARSHMALLOW COAST
GLOSSARY
JACK
Red Rose
from HERE to CORNER
@ The Boro
ANDY BODEAN AND THE BOTTOM BOYS
Friday, May 25
9:00 PM
the brian kozur band
Live at Wall Street of Murfreesboro
Roommate
RIM major seeks roommate to sublease for summer. 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex @ 911 Palmer Dr. Prefer non-smoker. Close to MTSU. Please call ...-0468 for more details
Wed. May 16 @ THE END 9:00 pm - $5.00
Thurs. May 17 @ WALL ST. 10:30pm - $5.00
Thur. May 24 3rd & LINDSLEY 9:00pm - $3.00
SHOO FLY PIE
MAY 18
June 1
AT WALL STREET
CRANK LIKE FRANK
AT WALL STREET
saturday may 26
natty matty at 9:30pm
of Montreal
Marshmallow Coast
Grand Opening



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Your Mom and I pray you've gained knowledge, wisdom and common sense of how hard life really is! We love you very much and only want the best of everything for you but you have to work really hard for it. Hope you had a great Freshman year!
Love, Your Mom and Aunt Carolyn

Susan,
Thanks for all your hard work in getting the 2001 Midlander together and getting all the staff working as a group again. Good luck with your new job and we'll miss you!
Matt, Rebecca, Jennifer, Kristy, Rob

Dear Kevin,
We are so proud of your accomplishments at MTSU. God has a special plan for your life so be sure to keep listening to his direction. We love you!
Mom and Dad

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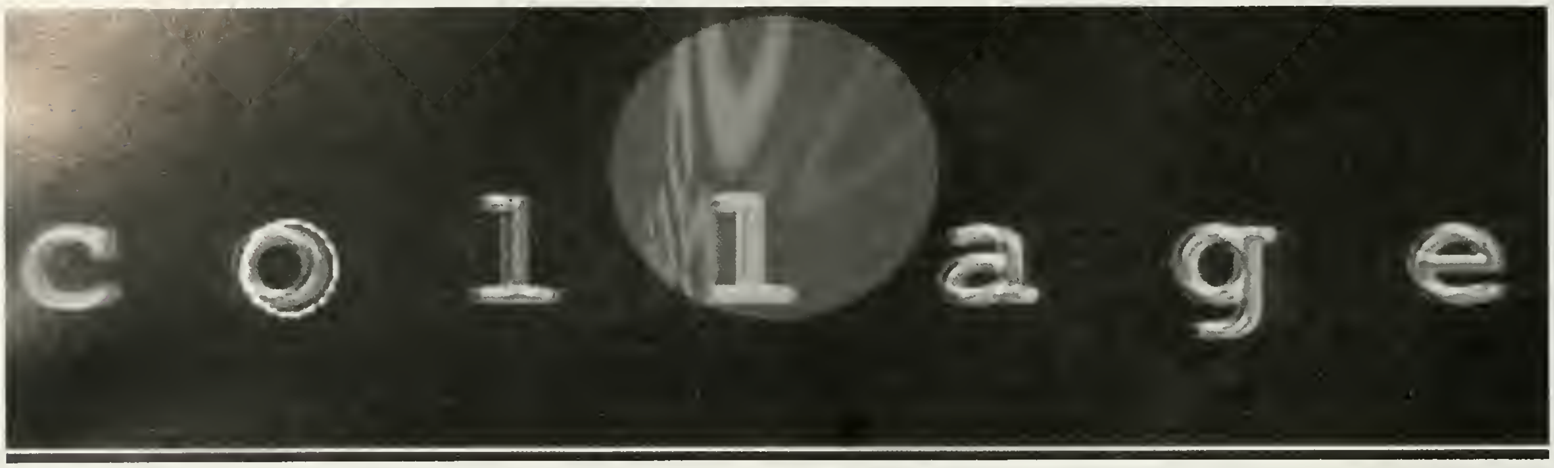

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From your Three Mothers

"Rosie"

"My Pearl"

"Joyce"

Nick,

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Mom,
You always told me in life that if I wanted it bad enough, I would make it happen. Well look at me, I am making it happen to the best of my ability. It is hard to always please everyone and at the same time chase after your own hopes and dreams and face the constant uphill struggle. Thanks for your years of unwavering support, even in response to my ungrateful thanks at times, but I am making it happen. Though you might think I am wrong, however it's much easier if you're along and watching me succeed.
Love,
Rob

DON'T JUMP!

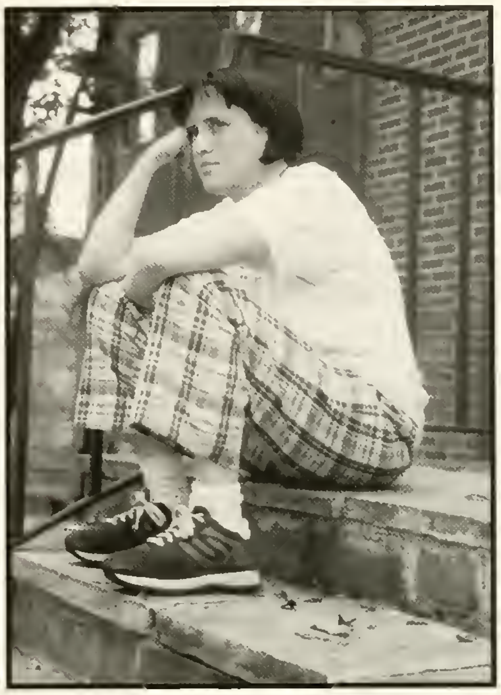
We cross our hearts and hope to die and....well maybe not all that, but we promise that the Midlander will be out on time next year!

The 2001 Midlander was revamped under new management. Any delays and late, lost or misguided judgments with the Midlander in previous years are not the direct responsibility of the 2001 staff and, as such, we will not take any. Good luck getting us to admit to this anyway ..... continued on page 587...

MTSU is soaring in many ways, and we hope that we have shown you a glimpse of that success in the preceding pages. While our goal was to show you all the activities, the achievements and accolades that elevate this university, time and space would not allow for that achievement. Consequently, we can only show you a few of the shining moments in a year that has been truly remarkable.

Soaring Academically. Academic achievements are unbounded. While we may be the fasted growing university in the state, the average grade point averages of our entering students and our graduating seniors are also climbing. MTSU is quickly becoming the university of choice for most Tennessee valedictorians and salutatorians. The number of Presidential Scholars we attract has increased annually since the program was started, and the overall number of scholarships awarded annually continues to climb. The number of students enrolled in the Honors College is steadily increasing and membership in the campus' numerous honor societies is climbing.

Soaring Administratively. Even though President James Walker decided to make a move to Southern Illinois University this year, MTSU did not miss a step in its journey to the sun and the stars. Dr. Walker pointed us in this direction when he arrived here about 10 years ago, and we expect that our new president will continue to push us toward higher achievements and recognition. We continue to recruit some of the best faculty and administrative staff that can be found at any university, and these people are committed to bringing us the best education and services that can be



found with the limited funds and resources they have to work with. MTSU continues to be one of the leanest administrative units in the state, but yet continues to offer state-of-the-art programs.

Soaring Athletically. In our second year of I-A football, Coach Andy McCollum, his staff and team have taken us to a winning season. Our baseball program under the guidance of Coach Steve Petersen has reached the NCAA playoffs and one of our players was drafted as the second pick in the major league draft. Our students competed in the Olympics representing a track and field team which has long held national recognition under Coach Dean Hays. Golf, tennis, softball and soccer teams all reached varying levels of success with many team members attaining national recognition.

Soaring Spiritedly. MTSU is not that small-town college anymore, and campus life is buzzing. Students are moving us up and moving us forward with expanded activities, both social and professional. Blue Raider Fever is abundant, as more and more students realize that college is about more than going to class and getting a degree. College is about making commitments, becoming involved, being dedicated and helping others. Coming to MTSU is not just about getting that piece of paper at the end of four years; it's about being a Blue Raider with True Blue Spirit.

Being a Blue Raider is about soaring to new heights, and we hope that we have shown you a glimpse of the pinnacle we are reaching for. As we close this book and look forward to the next, we hope that you will be challenged to Soar to the Sun.

Rebecca Reeves Matthew Starling Kristy Dalrymple

Jennifer Neas Susan McMahan Rob Evans

Other contributors: Anika Waters, Stephanie Patrick, Kendra Bell, Elisa Fisk

The 2001 Midlander was produced by students working in MTSU's Office of Student Publications, a part of the Student Affairs Division. It was produced using Adobe PageMaker 6.5 and Adobe Photoshop 5.0. The book was printed by Herff Jones of Montgomery, Ala. The yearbook representative is Lisa East.

Thanks...

Jennifer and Rebecca: I am completely indebted to you guys. You came in and picked up the slack - even when grunt work was involved (Academics comes to mind, Jennifer...). Thank you both for taking that crash course in Greek Life. The hard work shows in the amount of cooperation you got and fact that you both now know the entire Greek alphabet.

Rob: You are a workhorse! Thanks for being open to cleaning up others' mistakes without too much grumbling. Don't let yourself get frustrated next year and always remember to "save as" - it's just easier that way...

Matt, Kristy and Elisa: Thanks for taking photographs that actually deserved showcasing. Matt, I know you'll do a great job next year, and I know you'll have a great staff. I wish you all the best of luck, but I don't think you guys will need it. My last piece of yearbook advice to you is about hiring - and rehiring. Everybody deserves a second chance, but that doesn't mean they've earned a third, a fourth or a fifth. Trust me on this one.

Alita and Patience: You did the worst grunt work (indexing), and we all thank you for it.

Brenda: Thanks for keeping the entire department in line and on target. I'll miss my daily talks with you, but I promise to forward you all the funny e-mails I get in the future.

Lisa: Your patience with us has been unbelievable, and I'm not sure we deserved it. Thanks for the all the visits and the moral support. You are excellant at what you do.

Jenny: I certainly had no idea what I was getting myself into when you asked me to help you out. It was rough, but I'm glad we made it through. You helped me find something I hated to admit I loved and a career, too. You are the model of who I hope to be in the future and a great asset to this university. Thanks for everything - the laughter, the tears and never publishing that photo of when I fell out of the chair. I'll miss you.

To those of you who didn't see it through to the end: I owe you the biggest thanks of all. We never would have needed to hire more staff if you all hadn't jumped ship, and we never would have hired such a talented and dedicated staff to replace you.

- Susan